Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

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TODAY: LEISURE At Home in Ireland, Page 10

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Fire Haze a Disaster, Indonesia Declares

But No State of Emergency Yet

By Thomas Fuller
Special to the Herald Tribune

KUCHING, Malaysia — As this smokebound city endured another day of choking fumes Thursday, neighboring Indonesia declared a national disaster and called on "all levels of society" to mobilize against the forest fires that have left several countries in the region under a thick, gray haze.

But President Suharto of Indonesia stopped short of declaring a state of emergency, a move taken by Malaysian officials here last week that closed schools, businesses and nonessential government offices.

"The president has instructed officials in the central government and the regions to mobilize to overcome the disaster," State Secretary Murdiono said after meeting with Mr. Suharto.

He did not elaborate, but Environment Minister Sarwono Kusumaatmadja said that coordination was improving among various ministries to deal with the situation, Reuters reported from Jakarta.

The state of emergency continued Thursday in Kuching, capital of Malaysia's Sarawak state.

The city's main hospital continued to receive a stream of patients suffering from respiratory problems. More than 10,000 people have sought treatment at government clinics in Sarawak for haze-related illnesses since the state of emergency was imposed, according to the Malaysian medical and health services department.

In Indonesia, where tens of thousands are reported to be ailing, at least two

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Smoke rising from the jungle north of the capital of Sarawak, adding to the smog over the Malaysian state.

Palestinians Warn Israel Over New Settlements

'Thousands' Ready For Suicide Bombing, A Hamas Chief Says

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JERUSALEM — Palestinian leaders warned Thursday that the Israeli government's decision to build new homes in Jewish settlements would lead to more suicide bombings. Islamic militants asserted that they had thousands of volunteers for such attacks.

The decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was also criticized by the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, who repeated her call for a freeze on expanding Jewish settlements.

"It is very important that there be a time-out," Mrs. Albright said at a news conference after a United Nations Security Council meeting on African issues. "I am calling across the board again for a time-out on actions that make it more difficult to have successful negotiations."

Mr. Netanyahu announced late Wednesday during a visit to the West Bank settlement of Efrat that his government would build 300 more homes there.

A Palestinian official, Hanan Ashrawi, said Thursday: "This is another dangerously irresponsible decision bordering on insanity. I think we are rapidly hurtling toward the abyss."

A senior leader of the Islamic militant Hamas group, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, asked by Israel Television's Channel Two how many young Palestinians were willing to be suicide bombers, said: "Thousands, thousands. And if I said tens of thousands, I'm saying the truth."

Mr. Rantisi said Israel was provoking the Palestinians. "Israel should not expect us to dance to the tune of peace while they are bulldozing confiscated land and building settlements and strengthening the Zionist presence in Palestine," he said.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, also said Thursday that Israel's move to expand a settlement in the West Bank undermined U.S. efforts at the United Nations.

"We are unhappy with that announcement," he said. "The secretary of state is up at the United Nations at the moment, and she is engaged in an almost full-time effort to help Israel at the United Nations because there is an effort under way there to isolate Israel. And it's in that context that this announcement comes, and it undermines her efforts."

The Israeli foreign minister, David Levy, said that building new homes in existing West Bank settlements was legal and that the Clinton administration would come around to agree.

Mr. Levy, also in New York for the UN General Assembly session, said the construction simply accommodated "natural growth" among the Jewish families that live in Efrat, where the apartments are to be built.

Although he praised Mrs. Albright's peacemaking efforts, he challenged her criticism of Mr. Netanyahu's actions.

"We find ourselves in a situation even if we sneeze we'll be told it's legal

See ISRAEL, Page 6

Astronaut Gets a 'Go' To Join Mir

NASA Decides Risk Of Mission Is Small

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — NASA's top official said Thursday that he had decided to send the astronaut David Wolf into space for a four-month mission on the Mir space station after three separate reviews had persuaded him that Mr. Wolf would face no unwarranted risks on the Russian station.

Speaking only hours before the space shuttle Atlantis was to take Dr. Wolf into space, Daniel Goldin, the NASA administrator, said that the safety reviews, and a 20-minute conversation with Dr. Wolf, had assured him that the mission would involve no "unnecessary peril."

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration had never waited so long before making such a major decision about the nature of a mission.

Mr. Goldin said NASA officials were "deeply touched" by the public concerns about the flight.

But, he added: "The decision to continue our joint participation aboard Mir should not be based on emotion or politics. It should not be based on fear. A decision should be based — and is based — on scientific and technical assessment of the mission safety."

Mir's crews have had a woeful summer, including power failures, oxygen-pump problems, medical ailments, minor computer glitches and major failures, and a collision with a supply ship.

But Mr. Goldin and others who had reviewed this history said there were only two potentially life-threatening eventualities to be concerned about — a rapid fire on board, and sudden depressurization — and said they felt comfortable that the risks in both areas were now small.

American participation with the Russians, considered an important precursor to joint efforts to build a permanent international space station, will continue "as long as it's safe and productive," Mr. Goldin said in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The Atlantis, which was scheduled for takeoff on Thursday evening, was to carry seven crew members into space, dropping Dr. Wolf off on Mir and bringing back David Foale, an American astronaut who was completing a four-and-a-half-month mission.

NASA officials have maintained that the experience with Mir is helping them lower the risks of more ambitious space operations being planned, including the construction of the international space station and eventually a flight to Mars.

But many members of Congress, dismayed by months of chilling drama aboard Mir, have said that the lives of American astronauts are being placed needlessly at risk on board the 12-year-old Mir.

Representative James Sensenbrenner, Republican of Wisconsin, has been

See MIR, Page 6

Keith Richa

Globalization Theory Vaults Into Reality

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — For years, the debate over globalization has seemed abstract, intangible and rather theoretical, even to those who hold the reins of the world's economy.

But in the past few days, as the currency crisis in Southeast Asia took center stage during an unusually intense gathering here of the world's top financial officials, the intertwined world economy of cross-border commerce, labor and capital flows became suddenly plain for all to see, in real time.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The trauma of Thailand's financial crisis, and the contagion it spawned in equity and currency markets across Southeast Asia, forced the focus on globalization.

A harsh rhetorical exchange between Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia and the international financier George Soros over the role of currency traders was the most stark example of the different visions of world economics and finance.

Another was the resistance of some emerging economies to the U.S.-led drive to open up capital markets and to strike a trade accord allowing banks, security firms and other providers of financial services to compete freely everywhere. That injected a new and highly politicized dimension into what so far had seemed an academic debate.

To many of the finance ministers, central bank governors and other financial officials who gathered here, the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund that ended Thursday were a turning point in world financial history. What was most striking to bankers, officials from Asian and other developing countries and to representatives of the wealthy Group of Seven nations who reviewed the lessons of the Asian currency turbulence was the way theory was transformed into practice, and on the spot.

They met against the backdrop of real-time currency market volatility in East Asia, with investors moving money in direct response to the rhetoric emerging from the Hong Kong meetings.

"The most amazing aspect of all this," said the president of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, "is that this meeting was set three years ago, at a time when the Asian economies were known for their economic successes. But we are now here at a time of significant reappraisal and market adjustment, and this new reality has been brought home to everybody I have talked to."

Several top financial officials, from the G-7 and Asia, noted that because the sharp-edged issues of globalization were visible for all to see, the Hong Kong meetings were the most extraordinary, the most fascinating and the most delicate they had experienced in many years. But they also agreed with Mr. Wolfensohn, who, in an interview, referred to the currency crisis as "a time of shock for many." Nevertheless, he added, "I think it is healthy."

The hope of many bankers and government officials is that the lessons of the turmoil — that currencies need to be more flexible, that economic policy needs to be less spendthrift and more prudent and that banking systems need

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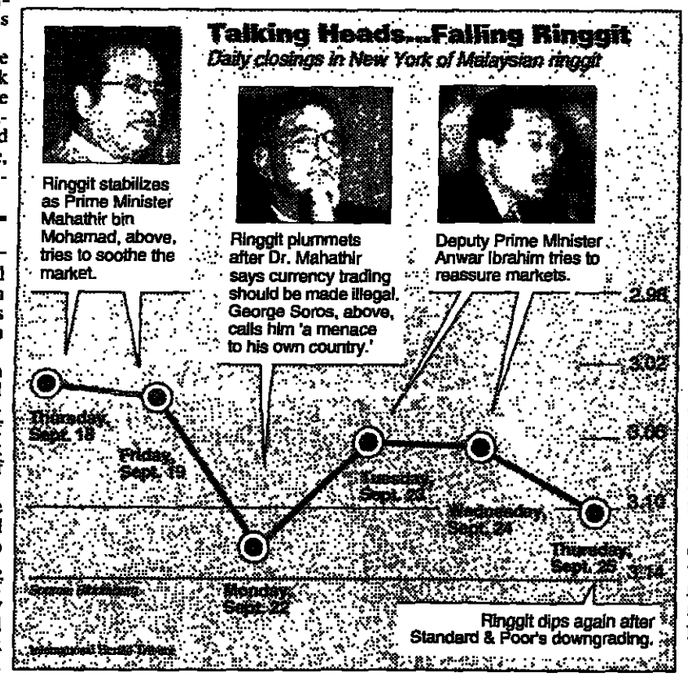

Now, Malaysia Is Hit With a Lower Credit Rating

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KUALA LUMPUR — Standard & Poor's Corp. cut its long-term ratings outlook for Malaysia on Thursday for the second time in six weeks, calling the country's credit growth "unsustainable."

The move pushed the Malaysian ringgit to a record low against the dollar, as Southeast Asian currencies tumbled across the region.

Meanwhile, in a run on one of Malaysia's largest savings banks, hundreds of people lined up to withdraw money after rumors that the financial institution might go under.

The rumors about Malaysia Borneo Finance Ltd. were denied by the nation's central bank.

The downgrading by Standard & Poor's, the American credit rating agency, will raise Malaysian companies' borrowing costs. It reflected increasing concern about the soundness of the country's financial system, amid the region's currency turmoil, profligate lending to the property industry and slowing economic growth, the agency said.

"It's another shock after a series of shocks," said Tan Yan Heong, of Kuala Lumpur Mutual Fund, which manages 2.4 billion ringgit ($787 million).

S&P slashed Malaysia's long-term ratings outlook to "negative" from "stable" and warned that there was a growing possibility of a downgrade in the country's long-term and short-term ratings.

Across Southeast Asia, fears of an escalating banking crisis and more corporate troubles because of the region's currency turmoil also dampened sentiment for most currencies, dealers said.

The S&P's downgrading had been preceded Aug. 18 by a rating cut to "stable" from "positive."

See RINGGIT, Page 6

British Plan Paparazzi Curb

Press Watchdog Proposes a Broad Expansion of Privacy

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — In a sweeping move Thursday to tighten newspaper standards following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, Britain's press watchdog proposed tough new curbs on photographers and a broad expansion of privacy to protect public figures and private individuals from news media prying.

The proposals would prohibit the publication of photographs obtained through persistent pursuit or unlawful behavior — a direct response to the widespread public complaints about paparazzi pursuit of Diana.

She died in a car crash in Paris Aug. 31 month as photographers on motorcycles followed her and an escort, Dodi al Fayed, from the Ritz Hotel. He was killed also, along with the driver of the limousine.

The curbs also would make much of the traditional fare of Britain's racier papers suddenly taboo. Under the proposal, details of a person's health, personal relationships and personal correspondence would be kept private in the absence of any overriding public interest, and public figures would be allowed to enjoy their privacy in a church, at a restaurant or even on a beach.

School-age children and people in grief should be left alone, according to the proposals, and journalists should strive to avoid forming a pack outside the homes or offices of people in the news.

Andrew Marr, editor of The Independent newspaper, said that although many of the measures were sensible, the commission's attempt to define matters of public interest and places meriting privacy was fraught with difficulty.

Last week, The Independent ran an article and a photograph about a meeting at the Spanish vacation home of a prominent Conservative politician involving former Prime Minister John Major and Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong governor. The paper speculated that the men discussed the future of Mr. Patten, whom some Conservatives regard as a potential party leader,

See PRESS, Page 6

The Dollar		
New York	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.7595	1.7728
Pound	1.6285	1.6139
Yen	120.825	120.37
FF	5.9145	5.951

The Dow		
	Thursday close	previous close
-58.7	7848.01	7906.71

S&P 500		
change	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
-6.55	937.93	944.48

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Opinion ..... Pages 8-8.
Sports ..... Pages 20-21.
The Intermarket ..... Pages 4, 12

AGENDA

Clinton, in Little Rock, Makes an Apology

Forty years after a national crisis in which U.S. airborne troops with fixed bayonets were ordered to the Arkansas capital to escort nine black children into Central High School, amid jeering and taunting students and parents, a welcoming President Bill Clinton was at the school door on Thursday. He held the door open as the nine, who helped blaze a trail in racial progress, mounted the steps and entered the school. Amid the celebration, there were words of caution by the president and others that the U.S. still had a distance to go to win equality and opportunity for all people across the country. "Segregation is no longer the law, but too often separation is still the rule," Mr. Clinton declared. Page 6.

Israel Urges Sanctions

Israel is pressing a reluctant Clinton administration to impose economic sanctions on Russian organizations and companies reported to be supplying missile technology to Iran. Page 7.

PAGE TWO
Egypt: King Cotton's Realm

THE AMERICAS Page 3.
Pendleton's Law, a Century Later

The IHT on-line www.iht.com

Illegal Aliens in U.S. Confront a Wrenching Choice

By Mirta Ojito
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Before she boards a plane to Germany this week, Angelica Struba will give her son, Anthony, a tight hug and extract a promise that he will be good while she is gone. She will not tell him that, although she holds a return ticket to the United States, she fears that they will be apart for a long, long time.

Ms. Struba was born in Germany 27 years ago but has lived in the United States for 13 years, much of it as an illegal immigrant. She is returning to Germany, without her 11-year-old son, because she thinks that if she leaves now she will have the best chance of eventually returning as a legal resident.

Under two sweeping changes in U.S. immigration laws scheduled to take effect this month, tens of thousands of illegal immigrants, many of whom have been in the United States for years and have jobs and families, are faced with a wrenching choice.

They are trying to decide whether to return to their homelands until they can get alien registration cards, known as green cards, giving them status as legal residents, or remain and face the risk that they will never become legal.

Lawmakers who favored the changes say the old rules rewarded people who broke the law, allowing them to stay illegally for years while they waited to be approved for green cards.

The new regulations, these lawmakers contend, will encourage legal, and orderly, immigration.

But many illegal immigrants, as well as their lawyers and advocates, said the new rules, which will go into effect Wednesday, could hurt illegal immigrants who are on their way to legalizing their status.

The impending changes have sent immigrants scrambling for advice and immigration lawyers, themselves often puzzled by the laws' complexity, seeking guidance from national advocacy organizations.

"I'm basically not recommending anything to my clients," said Maria Dominguez, an immigration lawyer in Miami.

"I just give them the facts and let them make their

See IMMIGRANTS, Page 6

Newsstand Prices			
Andorra	10.00 FF	Lebanon	LL 3,000
Antilles	12.50 FF	Morocco	16 Dh
Cameroon	1,600 CFA	Qatar	10.00 QR
Egypt	E£ 5.50	Réunion	12.50 FF
France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
Gabon	1,100 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Italy	2,800 Lire	Spain	225 Ptas
Ivory Coast	1,250 CFA	Tunisia	1,250 Din
Jordan	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	$1.20

Cotton, Not School / **Child Laborers in Egypt**

Death Comes to the Delta

By Douglas Jehl
New York Times Service

SUL HAGAR, Egypt — Here in the heart of this Delta, too, cotton is king, and in the early fall it rules absolutely — especially over children, to whom it usually falls to harvest the puffballs for the sake of Egypt's economy.

Yes, the school year has started, and in Egypt, education is supposed to be compulsory to the age of 15. But instead, thousands of young children — some as young as 6 — are spending these days barefoot in hot green fields dotted with spots of white, plucking the down with tiny fingers, ripping leaves with their teeth and stuffing the prizes into makeshift pouches fashioned from their tunics.

The pickers, hired by the Agriculture Ministry, earn no more than the equivalent of $1.50 for an eight-hour day. But in Sul Hagar, a town of 50,000 people and rutted dirt roads where donkeys outnumber cars by at least 20 to 1, even those wages are ones on which families rely.

And so since last week, when 25 children from the town were among the 31 killed when a flatbed truck carrying them to the fields veered onto a narrow dirt path, then plunged into a canal, people here have been racked not just with grief but also with an abiding sense of powerlessness.

"Someday, the children will have to go back to the fields," said Said Ali Sayed Yughri, 75, who until last week shared his squalid eight-room house with his wife and their 27 children and grandchildren. "It will be against our will. But it will be a matter of necessity."

The accident killed two in the family, a boy and a girl, both 17, who were cousins. Three other grandchildren were among as many as 150 packed into the same truck who were injured.

After insisting that three visitors take seats on their only living-room sofa, Mr. Yughri and his wife, Tawhida Ibrahim, 65, squatted on the floor to talk of a plight they share with so many neighbors.

The couple have four children, but only two are employed, earning less than $20 a month as street cleaners.

More than 30 percent of adult males in Sul Hagar are unemployed and nearly all those who do work earn low wages in the fields of rice, wheat and corn that surround the town in the fertile Nile Delta, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of Cairo.

When they are not harvesting cotton, many of the town's children are picking other crops, including jasmine and potatoes in fields many miles away across the western branch of the Nile.

Mrs. Ibrahim insisted, in tears, that neither the three survivors nor any of her 14 remaining grandchildren would be permitted ever again to pick cotton. "We are going to eat dust or go begging in the streets," she said. "I will not send them. What has happened has burned our hearts."

Mr. Yughri was more pragmatic. He said it would ultimately prove impossible for him, his neighbors and their children to resist the lure of cotton and the cash it puts in their pockets.

By law, no child in Egypt under 14 is permitted to work, except in agriculture, where those as young as 12 may take seasonal jobs as long as it does not interfere with their schooling. No one younger than 15 is supposed to miss school.

But these rules are routinely ignored even by the Agriculture Ministry, which owns some 10 percent of the cotton fields in Egypt, where the crop is still picked by hand, and almost always by children who work for low wages.

The ministry has begun to experiment with mechanization, but officials there say that Egypt's cotton fields are so densely planted that such a transformation may be slow in coming and that for the foreseeable future hand-picking will remain most economical.

Prized worldwide for its high quality, Egyptian cotton has extra-long fibers that provide a fine sheen and smoothness. Of the nearly 2 trillion pounds produced in the country each year, most is woven into textiles, but the 315 million pounds (143 million kilograms) or so of raw cotton that are sent abroad each year make it the country's No. 1 agricultural export.

Still, that has come at a price. A report by the Egyptian Center for Social Research found that 1.5 million children in Egypt under the age of 14 work — nearly one child in 10. They make up more than 7 percent of the total work force and nearly all of them work in agriculture.

While a national literacy campaign has brought improvements, only about half of Egyptians are literate, with the rate among women and girls at 34 percent.

Schools opened in Egypt on Saturday. But even on this morning, the cotton fields 32 kilometers northeast of Sul Hagar were packed with children who had arisen at dawn, just as they had before the accident, and been packed once again into flatbed government trucks to pick as fast as their fingers could.

"My parents didn't really want me to come back," said Hannan Ali, 15, the oldest of six children. She said she had never gone to school in her life. "But we're poor; my father is unemployed, and so there is really no choice."

Less than a week ago, Miss Ali and nearly everyone else in Sul Hagar watched and wailed as ambulances carried back the bodies of those who died when the high-sided livestock truck that was hauling them to the fields overturned, plunged into a six-foot-deep canal, and left many children trapped beneath the murky water.

Since that day, townspeople said, many of them have kept their children at home, refusing to allow them to risk a repeat of a tragedy that nearly everyone here attributes to a careless driver and a hard-hearted government.

The driver, who had veered from a paved track in an attempt to find a short cut to the cotton fields, survived the crash but surrendered to the authorities. He remains in custody.

The office of Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri has provided each family whose children were killed with a cash grant of about $900. But the Agriculture Ministry, whose employees supervise the child laborers, has done almost nothing, parents of the victims have complained.

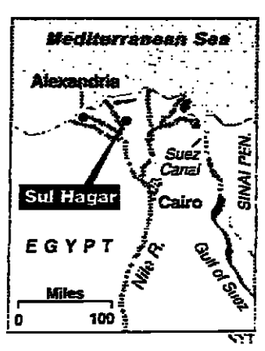
Asked whether the ministry had considered changing its practices since the accident, an official there defended the system, saying it helps provide for families that might otherwise have virtually no income.

Although they don't like it, many of the residents of Sul Hagar agree.

"We need the children to work for us, and the government needs the children to pick," said Safi Amin Amr, head of the town's social affairs office. "So it all seems very natural."

Barry Iverson/The New York Times

Education is supposed to be compulsory in Egypt to the age of 15. But thousands of young children are working now in the fields, picking cotton for $1.50 a day.



3 Youths Held In the Killing Of Former U.S. Party Official

By Blaine Harden
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — The body of Nelson Gross, a wealthy New Jersey businessman and former Republican Party power broker credited with delivering the state to Richard Nixon in the 1968 presidential election, has been found here near the Hudson River a week after Mr. Gross's disappearance.

The police arrested three Manhattan teenagers Wednesday, at least one of whom they said had directed officers to the body. Officers said the body had stab wounds and was found in a woods between some railroad tracks and the river just north of the George Washington Bridge.

U.S. Attorney Faith Hochberg in Newark, New Jersey, citing a confidentiality law regarding juveniles, refused to disclose the names or ages of the three suspects.

The motive in the killing of Mr. Gross, 65, who was filmed withdrawing $20,000 from a bank in Edgewater, New Jersey, on the day of his disappearance, was robbery, New York City's police commissioner, Howard Safir, said. He said Mr. Gross had not been kidnapped for ransom, as police suspected earlier.

Narcotics detectives based in the Washington Heights neighborhood of upper Manhattan, where police found Mr. Gross's silver BMW car Saturday on a street not far from where the body was found, broke the case, according to Mr. Safir.

Mr. Gross was last seen Sept. 17 driving his car away from the parking lot of the Binghamton Ferryboat, his floating restaurant in Edgewater. Two other men were seen with him in the car.

He later was caught on camera in an Edgewater bank nonchalantly withdrawing money as one of the men stood nearby leafing through a newspaper, according to The Record of Hackensack.

Law-enforcement officials gave no details Thursday of how the apparent robbery had been conducted or why three teenagers from a part of Washington Heights often associated with the narcotics trade allegedly would be involved in the abduction, robbery and murder of a multimillionaire from Saddle River, New Jersey.

Mr. Gross, a former chairman of the Republican Party in New Jersey, once was considered the party's most reliable fund-raiser in that state in both statewide and national election contests.

His political career ended in disgrace in 1974, when he was convicted of illegal money-raising activities in the 1969 gubernatorial race in New Jersey. A federal grand jury charged him with obstruction of justice and procuring perjury. He was found guilty on all the charges, fined $10,000 and served five months of a two-year term in the mid-1970s.

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FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION
Read THE MONEY REPORT every Saturday in the IHT.

DEATH NOTICE

TRAINA, NICHOLAS JOHN STEEL

In San Francisco, September 20, 1997 after a long-time struggle with a lifetime illness and a valiant fight to the end, of an accidental overdose. Son of Danielle Steel Traina and John A Traina, Jr. of San Francisco. Nicholas was 19 years old (1 May 19"8). He graduated from Town School and the Woodside International School and for the past 2 1/2 years was the lead singer, lyricist and manager of the rock band, Link 80 which had gained considerable acclaim nationally and internationally, mostly among teenagers. His C.D.'s and video's were being distributed internationally. A month ago he started a new band of his own, "Knowledge". Nick Traina was the bright star of his family and will be greatly missed by all. He is survived by his parents, his eight siblings: Samantha, Victoria, Vanessa, Maxx, Zara, Trevor and Todd Traina and Beatrix Seidenberg.

Friends are invited for Visitation, Tuesday, September 23rd from 5-8 pm at HALSTED N. GRAY-CAREW & ENGLISH, 1123 Sutter St., San Francisco and to attend the Funeral Service on Wednesday, September 24th at 3:30 pm at Grace Cathedral Episcopal Church, 1100 California St., San Francisco, CA. Interment private. Flowers or charity of your choice.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Smog Hurting Asian Tourism

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — Tourists are starting to avoid some popular sites in Southeast Asia because of choking smog from forest fires in Borneo and Sumatra, as health hazards cut further into business and tourist travel.

The State Department has cautioned U.S. citizens traveling to Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia that air pollution had reached unhealthy levels.

A leading British-based travel agent, Thomas Cook, said it was refusing to take new reservations for vacations in affected areas. Smog has also spread to the Thai resort of Phuket. *(Reuters)*

United Airlines will begin electronic ticketing service on trans-Atlantic flights. The service will begin Oct. 1 and be available for travel on nonstop flights between London and Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Newark, San Francisco and Washington starting Nov. 1. *(AFP)*

Hundreds of trucks, buses and passenger cars were stranded on Greece's northern borders Thursday as customs officials began a 48-hour strike. *(Reuters)*

British Airways' French units signed an agreement with American Airlines that will allow passengers arriving in France to connect directly with Air Liberte and TAT domestic flights. *(Bloomberg)*

Baja Hurricane Loses Strength

The Associated Press

SAN QUINTIN, Mexico — A hurricane that pummeled Baja, California, with high winds and heavy rain was downgraded Thursday to a tropical storm.

The hurricane, designated Nora, was downgraded when its sustained winds dropped to 70 miles per hour (112 kilometers per hour). Forecasters said a further weakening was expected as it moves up the Gulf of California.

The storm is expected to move toward the north and northeast, according to the U.S. Hurricane Center in Miami. It is likely to move into northern Mexico and then into southwestern Arizona.

Correction

An article Thursday incorrectly characterized the number of unemployed in France, which is 3:11 million, or 12.5 percent of the working population.

WEATHER

Europe

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Algarve	25/73	19/66 sh	21/70	15/59 r
Amsterdam	25/77	13/55 s	21/73	12/53 s
Ankara	15/61	0/32 s	15/66	1/34 pc
Athens	29/68	17/62 s	21/70	14/57 s
Barcelona	21/70	13/55 pc	21/70	15/59 pc
Belgrade	18/64	5/46 pc	20/68	9/48 pc
Berlin	20/68	11/52 s	20/68	11/52 s
Brussels	23/73	13/55 s	22/71	13/55 s
Budapest	13/66	9/48 pc	21/70	9/48 pc
Copenhagen	19/66	11/52 s	17/62	10/50 s
Costa Del Sol	25/77	19/66 c	24/75	17/62 sh
Dublin	18/64	11/52 pc	18/64	12/53 pc
Edinburgh	17/62	9/48 pc	17/62	10/50 pc
Florence	22/71	11/52 s	24/75	13/55 s
Frankfurt	21/70	9/48 s	20/68	8/46 s
Geneva	23/73	11/52 s	23/73	11/52 s
Helsinki	12/53	5/41 pc	10/50	4/39 c
Istanbul	16/61	8/46 s	19/66	11/52 pc
Kiev	8/46	6/46 sh	10/50	3/37 sh
Las Palmas	24/75	18/66 pc	24/75	19/66 pc
Lisbon	21/70	16/61 c	19/66	16/59 r
London	22/71	13/55 s	22/71	14/57 pc
Madrid	21/70	15/59 sh	23/73	13/55 c
Mallorca	25/77	13/55 pc	24/75	16/61 pc
Milan	23/73	13/55 pc	26/79	14/57 s
Moscow	8/46	6/43 r	7/44	2/35 r
Munich	18/64	7/44 s	19/66	8/46 s
Nice	22/71	16/61 s	24/75	17/62 s
Oslo	16/61	7/44 pc	16/61	7/44 s
Paris	22/71	12/53 s	22/71	12/53 s
Prague	18/64	7/44 s	19/66	8/46 s
Reykjavik	10/50	4/39 sh	7/44	4/39 c
Riga	15/59	6/43 pc	12/53	4/39 c
Rome	23/73	11/52 s	24/75	14/57 s
St. Petersburg	12/53	6/43 sh	11/52	8/46 sh
Stockholm	13/55	7/44 pc	12/53	6/43 pc
Strasbourg	23/73	10/50 s	23/73	12/53 s
Tallinn	13/55	6/43 pc	11/52	4/39 c
Tbilisi	18/64	7/44 r	18/64	15/59 r
Venice	21/70	12/53 s	23/73	14/57 s
Vienna	18/64	8/46 pc	20/68	10/50 s
Warsaw	17/62	6/43 pc	15/59	5/41 c
Zurich	22/71	11/52 s	22/71	11/52 s

Middle East

Abu Dhabi	43/109	24/75 s	44/111	26/79 s
Beirut	23/73	19/66 pc	26/79	18/64 pc
Cairo	34/93	20/68 s	36/97	19/66 pc
Damascus	25/77	11/52 pc	30/86	11/52 pc
Jerusalem	24/75	13/55 s	28/82	13/55 s
Luxor	38/100	10/61 s	41/106	17/62 s
Riyadh	41/106	24/75 s	41/106	23/73 s

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

North America

Sunny and nice in the Northeast Saturday and Sunday. A front causing showers and thunderstorms with heavy downpours will move from the Plains Saturday to the Midwest on Sunday and into the Northeast Monday. Sunny, very warm to hot and dry over most of the West.

Europe

Pleasant weather is in store for most of Europe Saturday to Monday. London, Paris and Berlin will have plenty of sunshine with warm afternoons. However, a powerful Atlantic storm over Iceland Monday will cause gusty winds and showers in Scotland. Portugal will have soaking rain.

Asia

Plenty of sunshine and warm in Beijing Saturday to Monday. Seoul will be partly sunny and comfortable. Breezy with a shower possible in Tokyo Saturday, then partly sunny and pleasant. Soaking rain is in store for northern Japan Saturday. Cambodia will have heavy downpours.

North America

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Anchorage	11/52	5/41 pc	11/52	4/39 pc
Atlanta	28/82	16/61 pc	29/82	17/62 r
Boston	19/66	10/50 pc	21/70	12/53 pc
Chicago	22/71	13/53 s	26/79	13/55 pc
Dallas	32/89	17/62 s	31/88	19/66 pc
Denver	29/82	12/53 pc	27/80	8/41 sh
Detroit	21/70	11/52 s	24/75	12/53 pc
Honolulu	29/84	22/71 c	31/88	23/73 pc
Houston	31/88	15/61 s	31/88	19/66 pc
Los Angeles	31/88	18/64 s	36/97	19/66 s
Miami	31/88	24/75 r	32/89	26/79 t
Minneapolis	26/79	13/55 s	27/80	13/55 t
Montreal	16/61	5/41 pc	19/66	11/52 pc
Nassau	32/89	26/79 pc	33/91	26/79 pc
New York	21/70	12/53 pc	22/71	13/55 s
Orlando	31/88	23/73 t	33/91	24/75 t
Phoenix	32/89	24/75 pc	38/100	24/75 pc
San Fran.	25/79	14/57 s	26/79	15/59 pc
Seattle	19/66	10/50 sh	18/64	12/53 sh
Toronto	17/62	7/44 s	22/71	13/55 pc
Vancouver	13/56	8/46 sh	15/59	10/50 sh
Washington	22/71	13/55 s	24/75	14/57 s

Asia

	Today High C/F	Today Low C/F	Tomorrow High C/F	Tomorrow Low C/F
Almaty	24/75	12/53 pc	24/76	10/50 pc
Bali	31/88	19/66 s	30/86	19/66 s
Bangkok	32/89	24/75 r	31/88	24/75 r
Beijing	22/71	9/48 pc	24/75	13/55 s
Bombay	29/84	22/71 sh	29/84	22/71 pc
Calcutta	30/86	25/77 r	29/84	24/75 r
Chiang Mai	29/84	22/71 r	30/86	21/70 t
Colombo	29/84	24/75 c	28/82	24/75 r
Hanoi	26/79	21/70 r	26/79	22/71 sh
Ho Chi Minh	31/88	24/75 r	31/88	24/75 r
Hong Kong	27/80	21/70 sh	25/77	22/71 r
Islamabad	37/99	18/64 s	37/99	21/70 s
Jakarta	32/89	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 pc
Karachi	33/91	22/71 s	33/91	22/71 s
K. Lumpur	32/89	23/73 pc	32/89	23/73 c
K. Kinabalu	31/88	23/73 pc	31/88	23/73 c
Manila	31/88	23/73 pc	31/88	22/71 pc
New Delhi	32/89	22/71 s	36/97	21/70 s
Phnom Penh	30/86	24/75 r	29/84	24/75 r
Phuket	32/89	24/75 r	31/88	24/75 r
Rangoon	30/86	23/73 sh	29/84	23/73 r
Seoul	21/70	13/55 r	20/68	8/46 pc
Shanghai	23/73	13/55 s	22/71	15/59 pc
Singapore	31/88	22/71 pc	31/88	22/71 pc
Taipei	28/79	21/70 r	29/79	19/66 pc
Tokyo	24/75	22/71 r	23/73	18/64 s
Vientiane	29/84	22/71 r	27/80	22/71 sh

Africa

Algiers	27/80	16/61 pc	29/84	19/66 s
Cape Town	24/75	12/53 pc	20/68	11/52 pc
Casablanca	22/71	16/61 c	20/68	14/57 pc
Harare	26/79	11/52 s	29/79	11/52 s
Lagos	29/84	23/73 pc	29/84	23/73 c
Nairobi	30/86	11/52 s	30/86	11/52 s
Tunis	24/75	15/59 c	26/79	16/61 pc

Latin America

Buenos Aires	16/61	8/46 pc	18/64	7/44 c
Caracas	31/88	21/70 pc	30/86	22/71 pc
Lima	22/71	17/62 sh	20/68	17/62 sh
Mexico City	24/75	11/52 c	22/71	10/50 pc
Rio de Janeiro	25/77	19/66 r	22/71	20/68 sh
Santiago	16/61	8/46 r	13/55	2/35 sh

Oceania

Auckland	14/57	10/50 c	14/57	13/55 r
Sydney	22/71	13/55 pc	23/73	14/57 s

Legend: s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice. W-Weather. *All maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1997*

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THE AMERICAS

The Vagaries of Pendleton's Law

By Stephen Labaton
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Waving a flyer from Republican leaders that levied "voluntary contributions" from civil servants who owed their jobs to the party, an Ohio Democrat demanded in 1882 that his fellow senators put an end to the practice.

"Voluntary contribution!" mocked the lawmaker, George Pendleton, as he stood on the floor of the Senate urging passage of a law that has now come front-and-center in the campaign finance investigations of President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

"Voluntary as the contribution the traveler makes to the pocket of the highwayman when commanded to stop and hold up his hands; voluntary as the contribution which the man of the world makes to the harvest of the Great Reaper when he puts in his scythe."

Persuaded by Pendleton's rhetoric, Congress acted a year later, passing the most significant civil service reform in American history.

Now, Pendleton's law has become a central issue as Attorney General Janet Reno considers whether to recommend that an independent counsel be appointed to investigate the president and vice president for making fund-raising calls from their offices.

The review by the Justice Department poses a classic issue of legislative interpretation.

Officials must decide whether to apply broadly written legal passages that appear to prohibit any officials from trying to raise contributions from their offices, or to look more closely at the somewhat muddled congressional intent behind an act that was originally meant to protect low-level civil servants, not fat-cat donors.

Congress has amended the provision many times over the last century, most recently in 1980, when it rewrote the Federal Election Campaign Act.

Justice Department guidelines make clear that the law can now be used when the person being solicited is a private citizen. Less clear is whether it applies when the fund-raisers are the president and vice president. Nor is it settled whether it applies when the person being solicited is not on federal property; indeed, a 1907 opinion by Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes suggests that the place where the solicitation is received governs whether the law applies.

Ms. Reno is expected by Justice Department officials and aides to the vice president to elevate the review of Mr. Gore to a "preliminary inquiry" by next Friday, beginning a 90-day period in which she will consider whether to ask a special court to appoint an independent counsel. Ms. Reno has two more weeks to decide what to do about Mr. Clinton.

While advisers to both the president and vice president say they intend to marshal the same legal arguments that the law does not prohibit what they did, the political imperatives of the two men are significantly different.

For Mr. Gore, the mere appointment of a counsel would be a sharp blow to his presidential aspirations. For Mr. Clinton, who has already faced an independent counsel for three years, the specter of another counsel, while troublesome, may have little effect on his remaining tenure in the White House.

Two former White House counsels, Bernard Nussbaum and Abner Mikva, wrote in memos in 1993 and 1995 that federal employees are prohibited from fund-raising activities while on public property, including making fund-raising telephone calls that "emanate from the White House." But current and former administration officials said the memos applied to White House staff members, not to the president and vice president.

At the heart of Ms. Reno's review is a provision of the Pendleton Civil Service Act that makes it unlawful "for any person to solicit or receive any contribution within the meaning of section 301(8) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 in any room or building occupied in the discharge of official duties by any person mentioned in section 603."

Section 603 refers to "an officer or employee of the United States or any department or agency thereof, or a person receiving any salary or compensation for services from money derived from the Treasury."

Dada Sampaio/Reuters

UP IN SMOKE — Brazilians ducking as a large cache of marijuana exploded while it was being destroyed.

Bill for Campaign Curbs Gains Support

By Ruth Marcus
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A long-stalled effort to rework the nation's campaign finance laws is gaining momentum on several fronts.

Senate Democrats, who previously endorsed a broad campaign finance bill that included spending limits, said they would back a narrower version focused mainly on banning unregulated "soft money" in hopes it could be passed.

In the House, the majority leader, Richard Armey, Republican of Texas, said he expected campaign finance legislation to be considered before lawmakers quit for the year.

And a group of business leaders, including some major donors, followed the lead of the nation's largest union organization and called on Congress to ban soft money, the unlimited contributions from individuals, corporations and labor unions.

Responding to the pared-down bill that Senate leaders have agreed to bring to the floor, probably next month, Democrats said in a letter to the minority leader, Thomas Daschle, Democrat of South Dakota — after expressing disappointment that such changes were deemed necessary: "We, nevertheless, remain determined to seize this opportunity for reform."

They called on Republicans to "deliver a handful of votes" necessary to pass the legislation.

The letter appeared aimed at clearing up questions whether all 45 Democrats would support the scaled-back version that Senators John McCain, Republican of Arizona, and Russell Feingold, Democrat of Wisconsin, have been pushing.

Away From Politics

• **A federal judge in Philadelphia has sentenced** a former National Security Agency employee to 18 years in prison for selling secrets to the Soviet Union 30 years ago. Robert Lipka pleaded guilty in May to selling documents to Soviet agents. He was charged with photographing the papers while working as a clerk at the agency from 1965 through 1967. *(Reuters)*

• **Investigators seeking the cause of the explosion** that destroyed TWA Flight 800 are checking to see whether an electrical charge could have ignited fuel fumes, the National Transportation Safety Board says. The theory being pursued is that an electrical charge jumped from a high-voltage wire to a low-voltage wire, which then carried the charge into a fuel probe in the nearly empty center fuel tank and ignited vapors. *(AP)*

• **The Dade County school district has become the nation's largest** to approve random drug tests for high school students whose parents agree. Testing in the 345,000-student Florida district is expected to be started in January. *(AP)*

POLITICAL NOTES

Clinton Takes His Case to Labor

PITTSBURGH — President Bill Clinton took his battle for expanded free trade to the most hostile audience he could find, defying hecklers at a union convention and imploring his estranged allies in organized labor not to punish Democratic lawmakers for taking his side.

In an unusually direct confrontation with a key political constituency, Mr. Clinton ventured Wednesday into the AFL-CIO's national convention in Pittsburgh to deliver an extended defense of his bid for more authority to negotiate treaties lowering international trade barriers. Labor has made its defeat a top priority.

"I know we don't see eye to eye on 'fast track,'" the president said, using the Washington shorthand for his trade plan, "but I think I owe it to you to tell you exactly why I feel so passionately about it."

At that point, a handful of union activists in the back of the convention hall interrupted with shouts of "No fast track! No fast track!" Mr. Clinton paused for a moment. "I think I've earned the right to be heard on it," he said sharply.

The response succeeded in silencing his critics for the rest of the half-hour address but did not win them over.

While Mr. Clinton argued that he needed the power to craft new trade pacts to preserve U.S. economic dominance, labor leaders fear his initiative will accelerate the flight of jobs to foreign countries that do not enforce the same high level of wage and worker standards. *(WP)*

Highway Bill Parked in House

WASHINGTON — In agreeing to put its highway spending bill on hold for six months, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee ended the last big money fight of 1997 but set up the first big one of 1998.

The committee's action — extending the highway spending law through March 31 while it works out its differences with House Republican leaders and the Senate over new six-year legislation — marked a victory for the speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich of Georgia, who defused a potentially embarrassing end-of-the-session floor fight. *(WP)*

Quote/Unquote

Dale Charles, president of local and state chapters of the Arkansas NAACP, complaining of segregation in Little Rock to explain his boycott of the commemoration of the integration of the city's school system by nine young blacks in 1957: "The Little Rock Nine should not have accepted the invitation to come into this farce. Very little has changed in this city." *(AP)*

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Burmese Strongman Steps Out of Shadows

Ne Win, Last Seen in '89, Visits Indonesia

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

BANGKOK — Emerging in public from a long and enigmatic absence, Burma's legendary strongman, U Ne Win, is in Indonesia for a personal visit at the invitation of President Suharto.

Looking frail but smiling and gesturing, U Ne Win, 86, arrived in Jakarta on Tuesday with an 11-member entourage that included his eldest daughter, Daw Sanda Win, and several military intelligence officers.

On his arrival, he was photographed in public for the first time since 1989, when he attended an Armed Forces Day reception in Rangoon.

That was one year after he stepped down from 26 years of one-man leadership — a surprise move that led to a nationwide pro-democracy uprising that then was quelled by a military crackdown that took thousands of lives.

Burma has been governed by a military junta since then, but many political analysts say they believe that U Ne Win, living in a guarded villa in Rangoon, has remained a power behind the scenes.

Josef Silverstein, a professor emeritus at Rutgers University and a specialist on Burma, said the circumstances of his trip to Indonesia suggested that he was "still very much in communication with the people at the top."

Mr. Silverstein added: "The fact that Suharto made a personal invitation and the fact that he comes with a military entourage suggests that he is not a retired elder gentleman but still somebody of significance within the organization. I think this confirms the belief of many that the larger decisions that are being made probably include his consultation on them."

In Indonesia, U Ne Win's schedule includes dinner with Mr. Suharto and a visit to the grave of the Indonesian president's wife, Tien, who died last year, Western *diplomats* said. He is to leave this week for Singapore for medical treatment before returning home.

The Associated Press reported from Jakarta that U Ne Win looked pale and frail and made no comment when he arrived. An aide grasped his hand as he walked slowly across a hotel lobby, smiling and gesturing.

The political situation in Burma remains tense, as a standoff continues between the government and its resolute pro-democracy opponents, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. At the same time, there are indications of dissension within the government involving hard-liners and a possibly more moderate faction.

Nine years after seizing power, the military still has not neutralized its opponents despite its annulment of a parliamentary election that was won by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's party in 1990 and despite its continuing arrests of her supporters since then.

Her party, the National League for Democracy, has scheduled a congress at her house for this weekend, in defiance of the government. According to reports from Rangoon, more than 100 of her supporters have already gathered from around the country. The authorities have tried to prevent two previous congresses, detaining hundreds of party members.

It was not clear whether the authorities planned to allow this weekend's meeting to proceed.

The congress would mark the ninth anniversary of the founding of the National League for Democracy in 1988, the year U Ne Win stepped down from his official leadership position in the face of growing student protests.

He seized power from a democratically elected government in a coup in 1962 and plunged the nation into isolation and poverty under a dictatorship he called "the Burmese way to socialism." During his rule, Burma, which had been one of the richest and most highly educated nations in Southeast Asia, became one of the poorest and most backward.

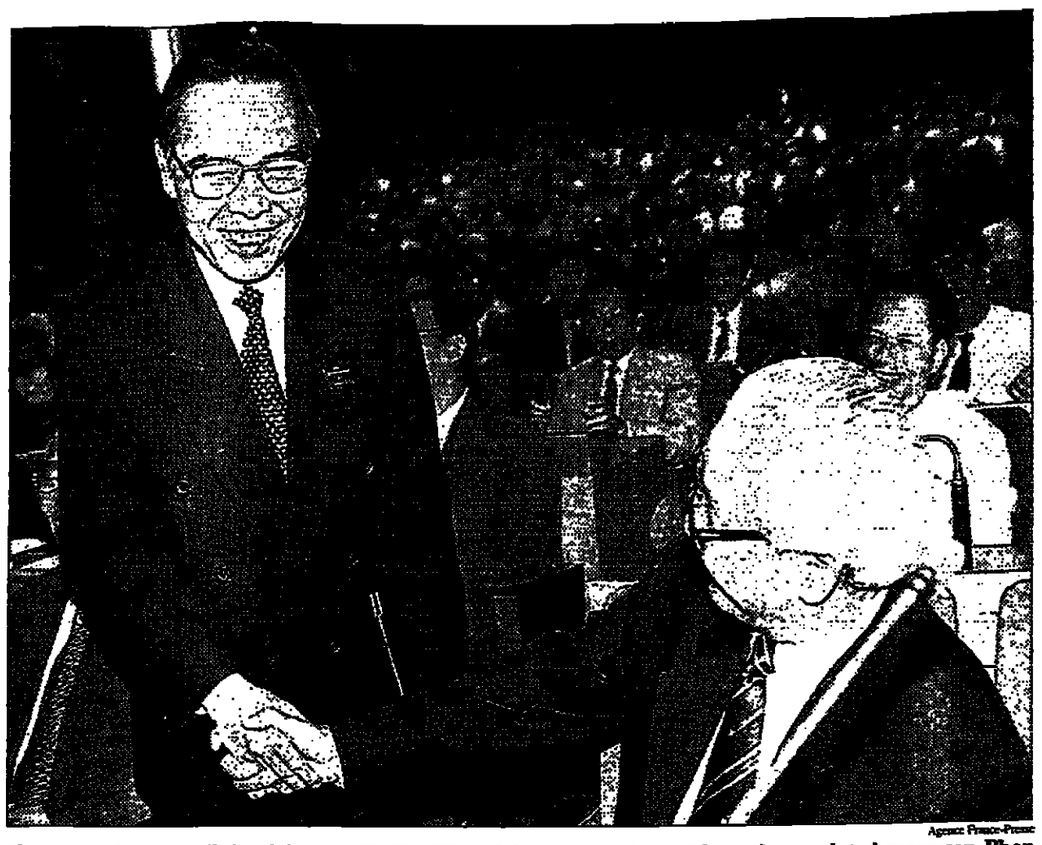
Fiji Is Readmitted To Commonwealth

Reuters

SUVA, Fiji — The South Pacific nation of Fiji said Thursday that it had been readmitted to the Commonwealth 10 years after a racially based military coup saw its expulsion from the club of former British colonies.

Fiji's readmission was announced by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, who led the 1987 coup but recently oversaw the return to a constitution that does not discriminate against Fiji's large ethnic Indian majority.

Officials said Mr. Rabuka received a letter from Chief Emeka Anyaoku, secretary-general of the Commonwealth, that confirmed Fiji's readmission after other members of the 53-nation group, including India, agreed to the move.



Agence France-Presse

Vietnam's departing Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, right, congratulating his newly appointed successor, Phan Van Khai, on Thursday. Mr. Khai, a progressive southern economist, pledged quicker economic reforms.

Hanoi Reformer Is New Prime Minister

Reuters

HANOI — Vietnam appointed a progressive southern economist as its new prime minister Thursday.

Phan Van Khai, 63, a Russian-trained technocrat and a leading figure behind Hanoi's economic reforms, was elected unopposed as prime minister by 98 percent of the deputies in the National Assembly.

Mr. Khai replaces Vo Van Kiet, 74, in a position that confers on him the task of steering a decade-old process of economic reform through Vietnam's first serious downturn. Mr. Khai used his acceptance speech to pledge quicker reform in the face of tougher and more complicated challenges.

"During the reform process the achievements that we have made have created great potential and opportunities for us," he said.

"However, development does not just move downstream," he added. "There will surely be bigger difficulties and challenges that need to be overcome. The demands of life that need to be met are higher and more complicated."

His appointment followed that on Wednesday of a Russian-trained geologist and party technocrat, Tran Duc Luong, as Vietnam's new president.

That leaves the third, and most senior, post in Hanoi's ruling triumvirate — that of Communist Party secretary-general — up for grabs in the months ahead.

There is still no date for the incumbent, Do Muoi, 80, to step down, but with no military figure currently holding one of the top jobs, further changes are likely, political analysts say.

One of Mr. Khai's first tasks will be to nominate deputy prime ministers and other ministerial posts for his new cabinet. Although no names have been published, prominent among the candidates is a rising Politburo star and deputy interior minister, Nguyen Tan Dung, who is expected to be appointed deputy prime minister.

SMOG: *Indonesia Declares a Disaster*

Continued from Page 1

deaths have been blamed on the pollution. At Sarawak General Hospital, doctors were not the only ones wearing surgical masks in the emergency room. Patients and relatives also wore masks to help fend off the haze, which often penetrates indoors a persistent burning smell and causes eye irritation.

But doctors in Kuching said that fewer people had been admitted for treatment Thursday; haze levels were lower than those earlier this week.

Shops and restaurants remained open throughout the day, and the city's airport, shut for most of the week, was reopened.

Some 1,500 passengers, many of whom had been stranded for days, secured seats on flights leaving for peninsular Malaysia and Singapore.

"The air here is choking and making me sick," a German passenger, Tanja Steinhart, told Agence France-Presse at the airport.

"We wasted a lot of money on food and hotel bills."

In addition to Sarawak, a popular tourist destination for its rain forests, the haze has spread to other tourist spots in the region, including the Thai resort island of Phuket and beaches in southern parts of the Philippines.

The United States, Britain, Germany and Denmark have issued travel advisories warning their citizens against traveling to countries affected by the haze.

Officials in the region have lowered their estimates for tourist arrivals, which is bad news for Southeast Asia's battered economies.

Efforts to fight the source of the haze — fires burning out of control in Indonesia — continued Thursday.

Jakarta announced that it had allocated 3.1 billion rupiah ($1 million) to the cause and had deployed 8,437 fire fighters throughout the country.

They are joined by more than 1,000 Malaysian fire fighters, who on Wednesday were sent to Sumatra, a center of forest fires.

Indonesian officials have also announced that Japan has offered to contribute 300 high-powered water shooters to help extinguish the fires and that France has offered to send advisers.

The World Wide Fund for Nature estimated Thursday that areas burned or afire in Indonesia totaled 500,000 to 600,000 hectares (1.2 million to 1.5 million acres).

The end of the dry season has provided ideal conditions for fast-spreading forest fires. Farmers, too, set fire to large swaths of land as a quick way of clearing brush.

The haze in Sarawak stems mainly from fires in Kalimantan, Indonesian territory in the southern part of Borneo island.

The problems of both the haze and water shortages throughout the region should be relieved by monsoon rains, which are expected in mid-October.

When rain fell in Kuching on Wednesday, however, residents were told to seek shelter because there was a risk that the rain could contain dangerous levels of pollutants.

BRIEFLY

Bangkok Extends Debate on Leader

BANGKOK — Government and opposition leaders agreed Thursday to extend the no-confidence debate against Prime Minister Chaovalit Yongchaiyut by one more day, through Friday.

The vote on whether to censure Mr. Chaovalit is now to take place Saturday, the same day a vote on a new constitution is scheduled. Attacks on the prime minister for alleged corruption and mismanagement of the economy continued for a second day Thursday, but the opposition did not present any blockbuster disclosures.

Even if it made a strong case against Mr. Chaovalit, the censure motion probably would fail because members of the government coalition are expected to remain loyal and vote in his favor. *(AP)*

Bangladesh Strike Leads to Fighting

DHAKA, Bangladesh — More than 100 people were injured in sporadic clashes between rival political activists during a daylong opposition-led general strike that brought Bangladesh to a near standstill Thursday, police and witnesses said.

More than 50 people were hurt in the capital and 30 others in the southern industrial city of Khulna, the witnesses and police said. Other injuries were reported from the northern town of Jaipurhat, northeastern Sylhet and Habiganj districts and the port city of Chittagong.

Police said they had arrested nearly 100 people. *(Reuters)*

Taleban Orders Hospitals Closed

KABUL — Taleban authorities have ordered all private hospitals in Kabul to close as part of a plan to return Afghanistan's health sector to its pre-Communist form, the Afghan Islamic movement's health minister said Thursday.

The closure will lead to better service for Kabul residents, Mullah Mohammed Abbas Akhund said, because doctors have been more interested in treating private patients than those in public hospitals. *(Reuters)*

Pakistan Criticizes New Delhi Over UN

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan questioned India's right to seek a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, saying Thursday that New Delhi had failed to implement UN resolutions in the disputed Kashmir region.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said in a speech to the General Assembly on Wednesday that New Delhi was prepared to accept a permanent seat in the planned expansion of the Security Council.

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman said New Delhi had not implemented long-standing Security Council resolutions, "which both India and Pakistan had accepted" for a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir state aimed at resolving the two countries' 50-year-old dispute over Kashmir. *(Reuters)*

JERUSALEM THE CAPTIVE CITY

"Britain made clear many years ago, as did the international community, that it considered Israel to be in military occupation of East Jerusalem and to have only de facto authority over West Jerusalem."

Malcolm Rifkind, then Foreign Secretary, 23 May, 1996.

One year ago Jerusalem rose up in protest after Israel opened a tunnel in the Old City, a reflection of Palestinian anger against Israeli policies. For 50 years, Israel has attempted to eliminate the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem, through expulsions, seizure of Arab land, settlement building, denial of family reunification and excessive taxation. These acts are in violation of the Fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949 which forbad physical and demographic changes to occupied territories. Such policies amount to nothing less than ethnic cleansing.

The families of 60,000 Palestinians expelled from West Jerusalem in 1948 have suffered a loss of property valued at billions of dollars.

Since 1967, over 40,000 Palestinians have lost their residency rights in Jerusalem. These are people whose families have lived there for centuries.

71% of East Jerusalem has been confiscated by the Israeli occupying authorities. Not one of the 38,500 housing units built on this land by the Israeli occupying authorities was for Arabs.

Palestinians receive only 5% of municipal funding, although Palestinians are forced to pay 26% of municipal taxes.

Israel has closed off Jerusalem from the West Bank. This denies the right for Palestinian Muslims and Christians to worship at religious sites and cuts off Palestinians from vital hospital and educational services in the city. It causes immense damage to the Palestinian economy in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is a focal point for all three monotheistic religions including millions of Christians and Muslims worldwide. Yet Israeli excavations seriously undermine the foundations of both Islamic and Christian holy places in the city, as reported by UNESCO.

PEACE WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED WITH A PALESTINIAN STATE AND A JUST SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE OF JERUSALEM.

" ...there will be no peace with security for the Israelis if there is no peace with justice for the Palestinians. "

Robin Cook, then Shadow Foreign Affairs Spokesman, Fringe Meeting, Labour Party Conference, September 1996.

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EUROPE

Liberal Democrats Face Identity Crisis After Blair Victory

Is Britain's Third Party an Opponent or an Ally of 'New' Labour?

By Dan Balz
Washington Post Service

EASTBOURNE, England — Britain's Liberal Democrats came to this seaside resort this week to celebrate their electoral victories of last spring and plot their future, but it was the long shadow of Prime Minister Tony Blair that dominated the agenda.

The party's annual conference has featured the debates, disputes and panels common to most political gatherings, but there is really only one issue on the program: Will Mr. Blair and his "new" Labour Party swallow up the Liberal Democrats in an alliance of the left, or can the small third party successfully carry off what its leader, Paddy Ashdown, calls "constructive opposition" and expand significantly?

In Britain's general election nearly five months ago, the Liberal Democrats had their biggest success in more than half a century, nearly doubling their representation in the House of Commons to 46 members — a small number in comparison with the 419 Labour members but significant in the history of the party.

Despite winning a majority of 179 seats, Mr. Blair immediately reached out to Mr. Ashdown, and the two men have formed a strong personal bond. The prime minister also took the unusual step of inviting Mr. Ashdown and other Liberal Democrats to participate in a cabinet committee that will draft recommendations on political reforms that are at the heart of the smaller party's historical agenda.

Everything was going smoothly for Mr. Ashdown until a few weeks ago, when, in an interview with the weekly New Statesman magazine, he mused aloud that entering into a coalition with Labour at some point was "a possibility." Ever since then, the party has been going through an identity crisis.

Mr. Ashdown's comments might make sense at some point well into the future. But he caught his membership by surprise.

"It made people suspicious that there was a subplot to his relationship with Blair they know nothing about," Malcolm Bruce, a Liberal Democratic member of Parliament, said.

It was clear from the pre-conference shudders and the reactions here that many Liberal Democrats are more comfortable being in opposition to Labour than cooperating with Labour. But Mr. Ashdown, in his conference keynote speech, suggested that the price of achieving long-sought goals that would expand the party in Parliament was cooperation and compromise with Labour. He urged his members to take the risks necessary to get there.

"Because this is real politics, there will be real prizes to be won," he said. "The more we agree, the greater the chance that reform will succeed; and the more we disagree, the greater the likelihood it will fail."

The Liberal Democrats' ultimate goal is to replace the current election system in Britain with one based on proportional representation, in the belief that, under almost any system of that type, the party would elect more members of Parliament than it does now. Under such a system, they argue, they could replace the Conservatives as the second-largest party in the country.

Mr. Blair already has endorsed such a system for elections to the new Scottish Parliament and Welsh assembly and has expressed willingness to consider it for parliamentary elections.

To Mr. Ashdown and his allies, that means working with Labour to enact the reforms. "We can't grow to our potential if there is no electoral reform," Simon Hughes, a Liberal Democratic legislator, said, "and there will be no electoral reform without an ally. And Labour is the only potential ally."

The party is an amalgam of the old Liberal Party and the Social Democratic Party that flourished briefly in the 1980s as a reaction to the leftward march at that time of the Labour Party. Once, the Liberal Democrats described themselves as a party equidistant between Labour and the Conservatives. Today, they have been drawn into Labour's orbit in large part because Mr. Blair has moved his party to the right.

Essentially, in fact, the Liberal Democrats now find themselves occupying the progressive end of the spectrum. "The party by and large is comfortable with that," Mr. Hughes said. "More comfortable than the leader, who doesn't want us to be seen as left-wing."

Mr. Hughes said the Liberal Democrats had become the principal defender of public services among Britain's political parties. Throughout the conference this week, Liberal Democratic officials have repeatedly attacked the government, accusing Labour of breaking its campaign promises to spend significantly more money on education and the National Health Service.

"I've got news for 'New Labour,'" Mr. Ashdown said. "We will continue to do it day after day after day." It was the biggest applause line of his speech.

The trashing of the Labour government from the Liberal Democrats' podium this week drew a rebuke from Peter Mandelson, minister without portfolio in the Blair government and one of the prime minister's chief strategists. Mr. Ashdown and his party, Mr. Mandelson said, are playing "a dangerous game" that quickly could devolve into "oppositionitis" and wreck the relationship forged between the two parties.

But some in the party say the greater danger may lie in the opposite direction: If Liberal Democrat cooperation with Labour persuades voters there is no real difference between the two parties, they may decide simply to vote Labour.

Scandal Rocks A Game Show On French TV

The Associated Press

PARIS — Just before Henri-Desire Landru, a convicted murderer, was sent to the guillotine at the Versailles prison in 1922, what was his final request: 1) a haircut, 2) a toothpick or 3) a foot bath?

A team on the popular French game show "Intervilles" correctly answered "a foot bath," but had its players been prompted? Grainy photos of the show's referee, Olivier Chiabodo, holding three fingers on his thigh appear to indicate the answer is yes.

The scandal over Mr. Chiabodo's apparent trickery has shaken France's leading television network and set off a storm of lawsuits. The question about the murderer's final request was asked July 2, when contestants from the town of Puy-du-Fou beat a team from Ancenis, then went on to win the championship this month — for the second year in a row.

The furor is reminiscent of the scandal that hit the U.S. television game show "21" in the 1950s. Charles Van Doren, a Columbia University instructor from a distinguished academic family, fell from grace after admitting that he had been given answers to questions in advance.

The final competition of "Intervilles," in which teams run grueling obstacle courses, dodge cows and perform other stunts, drew 7 million viewers to the TF1 network. Then last week, a muckraking newspaper, Le Canard Enchaine, reported that Mr. Chiabodo had prompted the Puy-du-Fou team.

On Friday, the newspaper Le Parisien ran grainy front-page photos showing what it said was Mr. Chiabodo signaling the Puy-du-Fou team in July and during another contest last year.

Newspapers have suggested that Mr. Chiabodo favored Puy-du-Fou because of his close ties to Philippe de Villiers, political chief of the Vendee region that includes the town. TF1 fired Mr. Chiabodo and filed a lawsuit against him. The town of Puy-du-Fou sued Le Canard Enchaine for defamation, and Pont Saint Esprit, the town that lost in the finals last year, also sued Mr. Chiabodo.

The mayor of Pont Saint Esprit, Gilbert Baumet, accused the referee of sabotaging his town's contestants. "The captain of our team told me during the contest that Chiabodo kept trying to put us off balance, saying things like: 'You guys are lousy,'" Mr. Baumet told the newspaper Liberation.

Mr. Chiabodo has denied the accusations.

London Expects Accord On Ulster by Next May

Full-Scale Negotiations to Start Monday

Reuters

BELFAST — The British prime minister, Tony Blair, said Thursday that he was determined to achieve an agreement on Northern Ireland's future by next May, now that the long-time foes have agreed to full-scale talks starting Monday.

Hopes for a settlement were given a dramatic boost late Wednesday when the bitter rivals ended 16 months of squabbling that had been hampering a move toward full negotiations.

The British and Irish governments hailed the breakthrough, achieved in seven hours of tense talks, as an unprecedented opportunity to seek peace after decades of guerrilla warfare in the British-ruled province.

Prime Minister Blair said, "I am delighted at the agreement in Belfast to launch formally the substantive negotiations on a lasting political settlement for Northern Ireland and set up the independent commission on decommissioning."

Decommissioning is the term used for the surrender of weapons.

"I now want rapid progress in the political discussions on the way forward," Mr. Blair added. "These will no doubt be tough but I remain determined to reach agreement by next May. That is what the people of Northern Ireland want."

The deal was backed by the powerful Ulster Unionist Party and Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army's guerrillas.

But the deal infuriated a hard-line Protestant leader, Ian Paisley, head of the small Democratic Unionist Party, who is boycotting the talks because he fears an end to British rule.

"I resent a British prime minister saying that he'll see that he has this settled in May," Mr. Paisley said. "Who does he think he is? How does he know what the people of Northern Ireland are going to vote about?"

The Irish justice minister, John O'Donoughue, said after the long-awaited breakthrough: "Tonight, a ray of sunshine shines across the entire island of Ireland, which will lift the hearts of all its inhabitants."

The decision means that the process of preliminary talks, struggling for survival since June 1996, will move Monday into full-scale negotiations on how the province should be governed.

Sinn Fein denied that the breakthrough meant it was moving toward acceptance of British rule over Northern Ireland.

The chief Sinn Fein negotiator, Martin McGuinness, dismissed an assertion by the Ulster Unionist Party leader, David Trimble, that Sinn Fein had taken "the first faltering steps" toward accepting a partition settlement that fixed British rule over Northern Ireland in 1921.

Mr. McGuinness countered Thursday that his supporters backed Sinn Fein's demand for an end to British jurisdiction and for the creation of a united Ireland.

"We will go to the negotiating table on that basis," Mr. McGuinness said. Referring to Mr. Trimble, he added in remarks to BBC, "He knows now that when we sit down at the negotiating table, there will have to be fundamental political and constitutional change on this island."

Politicians said an all-party "business committee" would convene Monday to map a program for wide-ranging discussions on easing communal tension.

In July, the Irish Republican Army announced a cease-fire in its 28 years of violent struggle to end British rule.

Johnny Eggitt/Agence France-Presse

SIOUX WARRIOR GOING HOME — The body of Long Wolf, a Lakota chief who fought in the Battle of Little Big Horn, beginning the trip from London back to his ancestral burial grounds at Wounded Knee in South Dakota on Thursday. He died in 1892 while traveling with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show.

Hungary and Slovakia Both Broke Law on Danube

The Associated Press

THE HAGUE — Hungary and Slovakia both broke international law in their feud over a Cold War deal to build a hydroelectric station, the World Court ruled Thursday in a case that bitterly divided the East European neighbors.

The two countries turned to the court in 1993 to settle their quarrel over a dam on the Danube River.

In its ruling, the court — the United Nations' highest judicial body — said that Hungary's environmental concerns were serious but not enough to justify pulling out of the deal and violating international law. But Slovakia, it continued, broke international law when it went ahead and dammed the Danube, eastern Europe's largest waterway, anyway.

The presiding judge, Stephen Schwebbel of the United States, reading from the ruling, said that both countries must now operate the Gabcikovo Dam jointly and take environmental issues into account when doing so.

"Both parties committed internationally wrongful acts," he said.

Hungary and Slovakia have each demanded financial reparations from the other, a situation that could be easily settled if both agree to drop their claims, the court said.

Hungary, however, must help pay part of the cost of building and operating the dam, the court continued.

"For Slovakia, this is a success," said Peter Tomka, who headed the Slovak delegation. "Both countries will be able to resume operation" of the dam.

"I am confident agreement can be reached," he added.

Gyorgy Szenasi, the head of the Hungarian delegation, called the ruling "positive for Hungary" and said that it could help the two countries settle their other differences.

Hungary said it abandoned plans to dam the Danube after it learned that the project would damage the river's flood plain. Slovakia countered that the environmental argument masked Hungary's unilateral decision to drop the multimillion-dollar project.

The dam was commissioned in a 1977 treaty between Hungary and Czechoslovakia, both then allies in the Soviet bloc.

Slovakia split from the Czech Republic in January 1993.

BRIEFLY

Russia Defense Official Denies Existence of 'Suitcase' Bombs

MOSCOW — A top Russian Defense Ministry official denied Thursday the existence of suitcase-sized nuclear bombs, saying such devices would be technically possible but too costly and inefficient to produce.

The statement by Lieutenant General Igor Volynkin followed claims by former government officials that Moscow possesses the miniature bombs and has lost track of some of them. "We fully control the production, maintenance and storage of nuclear weapons in Russia," said the general, who heads the ministry's department in charge of nuclear security.

Warnings about suitcase-sized bombs were first voiced earlier this month by General Alexander Lebed, Russia's former security chief. He asserted that of 132 such bombs, 84 were missing. Both the White House and the Kremlin have discounted his claims. *(AP)*

Yeltsin Pays Tribute to Chirac

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin paid unusual tribute to France on Thursday for helping gain Moscow a voice in NATO and a seat with the Group of Seven, awarding President Jacques Chirac Russia's top state honor.

Mr. Yeltsin presented Mr. Chirac with the Order for Service to the Fatherland after his arrival at the Kremlin. No agreements are expected to be signed during Mr. Chirac's two days of meetings with top Russian officials. French officials said his visit was intended as a show of support to Mr. Yeltsin as Russia tries to secure a more prominent place in the international community. *(AP)*

Dutch Addicts to Get Free Drugs

AMSTERDAM — Dutch lawmakers have approved a plan to supply long-term addicts with free heroin, officials said Thursday.

The three-month experiment, which will involve 50 addicts, aims to improve their health and curb drug-related crimes. It will begin in March. *(AP)*

For the Record

The European Commission said foodstuffs produced from genetically modified soybeans or maize would have to be labeled as such from Nov. 1. *(Reuters)*

A 45-year-old Frenchman who threw himself out of an 11th-floor window survived after he landed on a sheet-metal roof below, police in Nantes, France, said. *(AFP)*

Croatia Dismisses Warning on War Criminals

Reuters

ZAGREB, Croatia — The Croatian authorities shrugged off Thursday a U.S. warning that the West would act soon to arrest Bosnian Croat war crimes suspects unless Zagreb extradited them to international war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

NATO-led peacekeepers in Bosnia recently moved to seize some indicted Bosnian Serb war criminals and "we're going to get some Croats, too," a U.S. official said Wednesday. He added that action was expected in the "next couple of weeks."

Dismissing the threat, a Croatian Foreign Ministry official said: "There is nothing new in this threat. They have been at it constantly."

The International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, set up in May 1993 in The Hague, has publicly indicted 78 suspects — 57 Serbs, 18 Croats and 3 Muslims. It has so far sentenced one Serb and one Croatian, a member of the Bosnian Serb Army, to prison terms.

"We do have some objections to the work of the tribunal, but we have also made it very clear that we would cooperate," the Foreign Ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"In fact, we are the only ones cooperating and the world keeps putting pressure on us," the official added.

Croatia has extradited Zlatko Aleksovski, a Bosnian Croatian, to the tribunal and is holding another indicted suspect — a general, Tihomir Blaskic, who surrendered last year.

Seven more Bosnian Croats offered to surrender this year on the condition that they are guaranteed a fair and quick trial. But their surrender would only underline the tribunal's lack of real power and its incorrect approach, the Foreign Ministry official said.

"If all seven go to The Hague, with Blaskic and Aleksovski there will be nine Croats there. And a question arises: What is the point of the tribunal if it holds only nine Croats and no one else?"

U.S. officials have been pressing Croatia, which exerts considerable influence over parts of Bosnia, to turn over Bosnian Croat suspects to the tribunal.

Citing noncompliance by Croatia, Washington has blocked international loans to the country and insisted that it will be isolated diplomatically and economically until it complies.

Last week, Washington urged the government to extradite two suspects, Dario Kordic and Ivica Rajic, or face further economic retaliation.

The warning drew an angry response from Prime Minister Zlatko Matesa, who said that Croatia would not "trade anyone nor shall we extradite our people for loans."

Bosnian Serb President Set To 'Let the People Decide'

The Associated Press

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb president, said Thursday that she was ready to face her bitter rival, Radovan Karadzic, a war-crimes suspect, in elections this fall designed to test Serb loyalties.

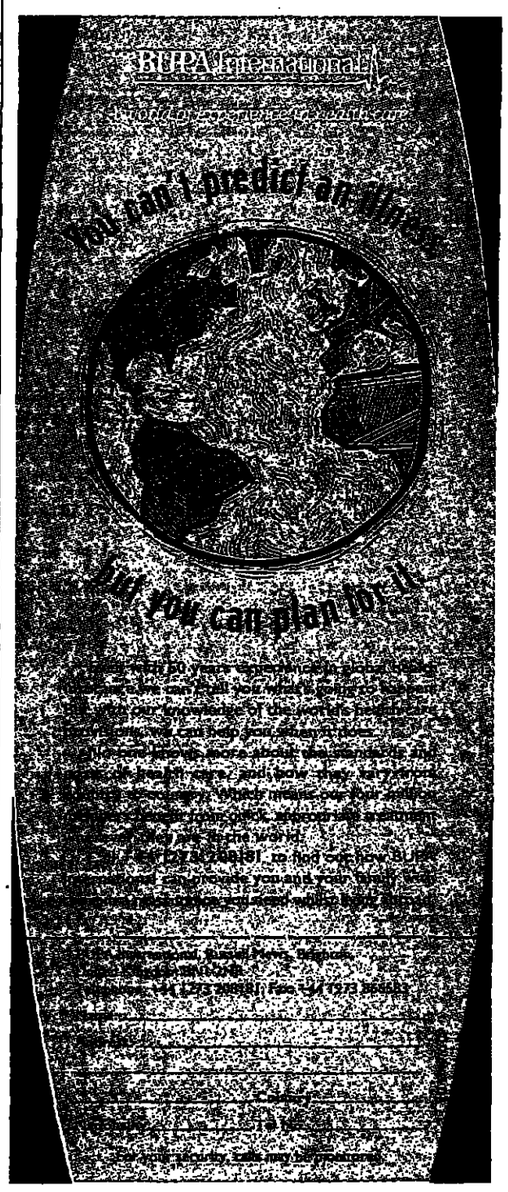
"I am not afraid of the elections," Mrs. Plavsic said here upon her return from Belgrade. "Let it be the way the people decide."

On Wednesday, Mrs. Plavsic agreed with Momcilo Krajisnik, the hard-line Serb member of the joint Bosnian presidency and a senior aide to Mr. Karadzic, to hold elections and thus resolve the bitter Serb power struggle that has threatened Bosnia's fragile peace.

Parliamentary elections will be held Nov. 15, and elections for Mrs. Plavsic's and Mr. Krajisnik's offices will take place Dec. 7.

If Mrs. Plavsic loses, she will most likely will be doomed politically and face possible danger, while the U.S.-sponsored peace deal for Bosnia will be in jeopardy. Unlike Mr. Karadzic, Mrs. Plavsic has pledged to honor the Dayton accords and cooperate with Bosnia's Muslims and Croats.

The Bosnian Serb president clearly was taking a risk in agreeing to the elections, but she still praised them as the best way out of the deadlock. "The elections will show the right way and clear the situation," she said. "We shouldn't run away from the elections."



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Little Rock 40 Years Later: Clinton Opens the School Door

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas — Forty years ago, nine black students entered the all-white Central High School under armed escort.

On Thursday, it was President Bill Clinton holding the school door open for those civil rights pioneers as he asked Americans once again to push back the barriers of racism.

From the steps of the imposing brick school, Mr. Clinton and the "Little Rock Nine" who integrated the school staged a symbolic break with the past, even as they said with regret that true racial harmony remained elusive.

"Segregation is no longer the law, but too often separation is still the rule," the president said. "We have to keep working on it — not just with our voices but with our laws."

Under a nearly cloudless sky, Mr. Clinton led the nine former students up Central's grand stone steps and held open for them the heavy glass-paneled doors. He shook hands and gave each one a pat.

"Forty years ago today they climbed these steps, passed through this door and moved our nation; and for that, we must all thank them," he said to a roar of applause.

In 1957, while Mr. Clinton, then 11 years old, was attending segregated schools 50 miles (80 kilometers) away in Hot Springs, Governor Orval Faubus ordered the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the black students from enrolling at Central.

A showdown ensued. President Dwight Eisenhower sent in 1,000 members of the 101st Airborne Division to escort the students into the school on Sept. 25.

The teenagers were jeered, threatened and spat upon in school hallways.

"What happened here 40 years ago was simply wrong," Governor Mike Huckabee, whose daughter is a Central student, said Thursday.

"It was evil, and we renounce it. Never, never, never, never again."

Hillary Rodham Clinton recalled an early lesson in courage as she watched the crisis on television "from my suburb outside of Chicago where I went to schools that were all white, where I lived with only white people."

The president, too, regretted that he was educated in segregated schools until he went to college at Georgetown University in Washington.

But he said he was impressed as a young boy by his grandfather, who owned a grocery store that served both black and white customers.

"I learned America's most profound lessons," the president said. "We really are all equal. We really do have the right to live in dignity."

The Central High crisis, he said, left him with a "driving passion" to help improve race relations.

From the back of the crowd, 10 people holding signs tried to interrupt the president's speech, but Mr. Clinton just talked louder. One of the signs read, "Justice for All."

White House aides said the disruption was aimed not at Mr. Clinton but was a protest against problems over handicapped access.

Attorney General Janet Reno and Thurgood Marshall Jr., son of the late Supreme Court justice and its first black, were among the 2,000 who filled the school's front lawn.

Fatima McKindra, the first black female to be elected Central's student council president, introduced President Clinton.

Too many minority children are threatened by drugs and too many minority groups live separate lives in separate communities, Mr. Clinton said.

"Too many Americans of all races have actually begun to give up on the idea of integration and the search for common ground," he said.

Ernest Green, one of the teenagers who integrated Central and became its first black graduate, saluted the parents who stood behind him them.

"They were able to see the difference between the American dream and the American reality and were willing to sacrifice their own personal comfort to try and merge the two," he said.

The president's address was billed by White House aides as a benchmark in his fledgling national dialogue on race relations.

Privately, some top aides have complained that the initiative launched in June has, up to now, lacked clear focus and direction.

"He should set a tone, provide direction, influence, as far as possible," said Terrence Roberts, one of those long-ago students who braved white hostility.

"To the degree that he does not do that, he will have failed, in my opinion."

IMMIGRANTS: *A Wrenching Choice*

Continued from Page 1

own choices," she said. "But these are tough choices."

The first change, which directly affects thousands of immigrants like Ms. Struba who were close in line for getting a green card, eliminates a three-year-old provision of the immigration laws that had allowed applicants to stay in the United States and get their cards, even though they were here illegally. To do so, the applicants, many of whom hold jobs at American companies or have close relatives who are citizens, simply paid a $1,000 penalty.

Under the new rule, most applicants must return to their home countries and wait there until their applications are approved and they get the cards.

The second change could affect far more people, including those who have not applied for a green card but may hope to some day. Under this change, immigrants who have been in the country illegally for at least six months, and then leave for any reason — including going back to their homeland to get a green card — can be barred for up to 10 years from coming back.

The new laws are not expected to affect the large number of illegal immigrants who have no hopes of applying for a visa and who remain underground, working without permits.

But already they have affected people like Julio Sandor Sandoval, a 30-year-old Argentine who lived in the United States for eight years. Until recently, Mr. Sandoval was a cameraman for WFOR-Channel 4, the CBS affiliate in Miami. He lived in an apartment two blocks from his only sister and picked up his nephews from school each day.

Worried about the implications of the law, Mr. Sandoval, who is waiting for a green card his U.S.-born sister petitioned for on his behalf in 1989, returned to Buenos Aires. He now shares a tiny apartment with an aunt and roams the streets looking for a job.

"My world is in the United States," Mr. Sandoval said from Buenos Aires this week. "It's where I made my career. It's where my family is."

Ms. Struba fears a similar fate. She is a dance teacher who lives in Spring Valley, New York, with her mother, a legal resident, and her son, Anthony, an American citizen. In Germany, she will share an apartment with childhood friends. She said she has no idea how she will support herself in Germany.

"I'm trying to keep a positive attitude," Ms. Struba said. "But I'm having a hard time. Actually, I'm desperate."

"What do I tell her now?" said Ms. Struba's attorney, Andrew Lerner. "That because she is playing by the rules, she will be punished? This law will take away the incentive to do things the legal way."

Nevertheless, Mr. Lerner advised Ms. Struba to leave.

Since 1994, people like Ms. Struba did not have to leave the country to adjust their status. By filling out an application and paying a one-time $1,000 penalty fee, they were allowed to remain in the United States, waiting for residency documents, without returning to their countries of origin.

But the law that allows them to do that is scheduled to expire Tuesday. After that day — unless Congress has a change of heart — people who are in the process of becoming legal residents will have to leave the country to qualify to receive green cards.

Advocates for immigrants estimate that a quarter of a million people in the United States, perhaps even more, will be affected by the laws.

MARKETS: *Theory Vaults Into Reality*

Continued from Page 1

better supervision, greater transparency and more cautious lending — will take root in the weeks and months to come.

Yet, added to this exercise in trying to rectify past errors and lay the groundwork for closer financial cooperation is a new set of economically driven political dynamics that many experts believe will shape the global debate for years to come.

For example, China, having just signaled far-reaching reforms of state industry and banking that if successful will consolidate its position as the fastest-growing major economy over the next decade, asserted itself as the champion of developing countries and announced the dawning of a new and "multipolar world" that would resist "bullying" by more developed countries.

Japan, its economic recovery strategy still in doubt, came under fire from the United States for not doing enough to bring down its soaring trade surplus. But Tokyo was also forced to tread warily between the need to assuage Washington and assume its responsibilities as the world's second most powerful economy, and the need to curry favor with other Asian nations that are among its most important export markets.

The United States, meanwhile, was preaching the gospel of opening financial markets while nudging Thailand and its regional neighbors toward painful, and unpopular, reform and austerity programs — all to solve the crisis that some East Asians associate explicitly with market liberalization.

At the same time, the United States also had to work alongside the IMF and World Bank to restore investor confidence and contain the regional crisis, with the U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, cast in the difficult role as the understanding partner of several of his Asian counterparts.

This meant that at a meeting Tuesday with the finance ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Brunei, Mr. Rubin and the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Greenspan, said they had confidence in East Asia's recovery potential. But they also had to express their concerns about the idea of setting up a new emergency rescue fund while, at the same time, they had to urge their Asian colleagues to reform and strengthen their fragile banking systems.

Japan, meanwhile, which is both a big lender and exporter to East Asia, tried to voice support for the rescue fund, but officials from Tokyo appeared deliberately vague, perhaps because the proposal was the subject of a contentious discussion during last weekend's G-7 meeting.

The tendency to blame financial speculators for the region's currency crisis — and to seek a way of being indemnified from the adverse effects of globalization — reached its zenith Saturday, when Mr. Mahathir proclaimed currency trading "unnecessary, unproductive and immoral" and said "it should be made illegal.

A day later, Mr. Soros, smarting from being called "a moron" by the Malaysian leader, replied that Mr. Mahathir was "a menace to his own country" who should not be taken seriously.

The World Bank-IMF meetings were not only overshadowed by the Mahathir-Soros exchange, but immediately currency markets reacted. When trading opened on Monday, the Malaysian ringgit fell to a 26-year low against the dollar, only showing some recovery a day later, after Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim tried on two consecutive days to limit damage by pledging there would be no restrictions on currency trading.

Another example of how real events helped bring the risks and benefits of globalization to the fore in Hong Kong was the increasing reluctance of some Asian nations to accept the U.S. argument that opening their capital markets and financial services sectors to competition would actually help to strengthen the world financial system.

Although some of his neighbors kept their distance, notably the Philippines, Mr. Anwar said Wednesday that Malaysia would not agree to a deal in the World Trade Organization's current round of financial services talks unless it contained guarantees of protection from what he has called "unscrupulous speculators."

Prime Minister Li Peng of China also demanded action to protect developing countries from becoming "easy targets of international financial speculation."

Eddie Shih/The Associated Press

PAY UP — Students from a private elementary school protesting in Taipei on Thursday, demanding that the government restore the legal guarantee that 15 percent of Taiwan's budget be earmarked for education.

ISRAEL: *Palestinian Leaders Warn of Attacks Over New Housing*

Continued from Page 1

but unproductive," Mr. Levy said.

The announcement of more government-built housing came less than two weeks after Mrs. Albright, on a trip to the Middle East, urged Israel to take a "time-out" from settlement expansion and other measures that arouse Palestinian anger so that the peace talks could be revived.

The action Wednesday evidently caught Mrs. Albright by surprise. Her spokesman, James Rubin, said that she had spoken by telephone with Mr. Netanyahu at midday Wednesday, and that he had made no mention of new settler housing, even though they discussed the Jewish occupation of a house in the Arab Jerusalem neighborhood of Ras Amud.

Mr. Rubin said the secretary did not regard the announcement of new settler housing "as consistent with the environment she hoped to create."

A spokesman for Mr. Netanyahu, Shai Bazak, said the 300 housing units the prime minister promised for Efrat had been approved under the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Rabin froze most settlement construction after the 1993 peace agreement with the Palestinians, but he made some exceptions for settlements around Jerusalem. It was not clear whether the new housing was covered by the freeze.

The settlements are part of a chain of Jewish colonies around Jerusalem that have long been considered by Israeli governments as comprising a strategic extension of Jerusalem.

As the war of words between Israel and the Palestinians escalated, Ambassador Indyk, who is due to return to Washington by next week, said in a farewell speech that "the dream of peace some days seems to be turning into a nightmare."

Speaking at the Council for Peace and Security, a Tel Aviv group largely made up of former Israeli generals, Mr. Indyk said that "it is clear to all of us that something is fundamentally wrong" with the peace process.

"We leave Israel with a heavy heart, for the dream of peace on some days recently seems to be turning to a nightmare," said Mr. Indyk, who is awaiting Senate confirmation as the new assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. "The great sense of hope that marked my arrival here two years and a half ago seems to have been dashed on the rocks."

Mr. Indyk said the peace process had deeply disappointed both sides, mentioning the continuous attacks by Islamic radicals and "unilateral actions" by Israel, such as the construction of Jewish settlements in occupied areas where Palestinians hope to create a future state.

In another development, Hamas vowed Thursday to hit targets inside and outside of Israel over an attempted attack on one of its political leaders in Jordan.

"The Zionist enemy will pay a river of blood for one single drop of blood from one of our fighters," Hamas said in a leaflet. It said the attack took its fight with Israel outside the "borders of the homeland."

The Hamas branch in Jordan said Thursday that Khaled Meshal, head of its politburo, was attacked on an Amman street as he walked with his three children. Mr. Meshal was not hurt. It blamed Israel's Mossad secret service.

(AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT)

RINGGIT: *Rating Cut Sparks a Plunge*

Continued from Page 1

S&P's ratings are one of the gauges of risk used by investors' looking to put their money in Malaysia.

S&P said it expected the country's bank-asset quality to deteriorate in 1998. It also said the boom in investment, now more than 40 percent of Malaysia's gross domestic product, was excessive, and that there was "evident reluctance" on the government's part to rein it in.

S&P said inflationary pressures were rising and that it expected Malaysia's current account deficit — a measure of the imports of goods and services minus exports — to grow to 6 percent of gross domestic product this year.

Restrictions on stock trading that Malaysia put in place last month — and lifted less than a week later — undermined foreign investment, S&P said.

Malaysia's future ratings now depend on steps the government may announce in the 1998 budget on Oct. 17 to slow demand, S&P said. The latest downgrade could put pressure on the government to raise interest rates to cool growth.

"What's negative is that Malaysia is the second country after Thailand in this region whose ratings outlook is cut," said Chia Woon Khien, head of Asian economic research at Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken.

Thailand is experiencing its slowest economic growth in more than a decade amid mounting bad loans and excessive lending to the property industry, which led to the country's accepting an International Monetary Fund $17-billion rescue package.

Malaysia has tried to maintain its economic growth. The Malaysian economy has expanded at more than 8 percent a year in the past nine years, which analysts said is too fast to be sustained.

S&P also cut the ratings outlook for some of Malaysia's biggest companies — Petroliam Nasional Bhd., Telekom Malaysia Bhd. and Tenaga Nasional Bhd. — to "negative" from "stable."

The Malaysian ringgit fell after S&P released the statement. The ringgit weakened as much as 3.2 percent to a record low of 3.1425 to the U.S. dollar from Wednesday's close. The ringgit was quoted at about 3.07 before the news of the downgrade.

The benchmark stock Kuala Lumpur Composite Index pared its gains. It rose 9.92 points, or 1.27 percent, to close at 789.33 points.

That was down from a high of 793.62 points earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people lined up in Malaysia at branches of one of Malaysia's largest savings banks for the second day Thursday, heeding rumors that its president was ill and that the company was about to go under.

Bank Negara, Malaysia's central bank, said that Malaysia Borneo Finance Ltd., which has 2 million customers, was sound and that the bank would meet any depositor demands.

In Taipei, the government said Thursday that Taiwan had spent $1.4 billion to defend its currency since Aug. 1.

The bill drove the island's foreign-currency reserves to a nine-month low of $87.79 billion, the government said.

It may have been money well spent, analysts said, because Taiwan was able to insulate itself from the turmoil that ripped through other financial markets in the region. *(Bloomberg, AP, AFP)*

Deal Under Discussion for Nurse in Saudi Killing

The Associated Press

ADELAIDE, Australia — The family of a nurse murdered in Saudi Arabia has discussed terms for a deal on the fate of a British nurse accused of the killing, but has not waived its right under Saudi law to call for the death penalty, lawyers said Thursday.

While negotiations are continuing between the parties' lawyers, the victim's brother, Frank Gilford, has not changed his position on supporting the death penalty, his lawyers said.

They said comments that a $1.2 million clemency deal had been struck were unauthorized and threatened future negotiations.

"There have been, over the last two weeks, ongoing discussions between the lawyers for the nurses and the lawyers for Frank Gilford and his family," said a lawyer for Mr. Gilford, Michael Abbott. "From time to time various working documents have been prepared and discussed."

It was the first confirmation from the victim's family that they had been in negotiations with lawyers for the two nurses accused of the killing.

Lawyers in Saudi Arabia disclosed Tuesday that one of the nurses, Deborah Parry, 38, had been convicted of "intentional murder" in the death last December of Yvonne Gilford, 55.

Under Saudi Arabia's strict Islamic law, such a verdict carries the death sentence, generally public beheading. But the family of the victim can have the sentence commuted to a prison term by seeking clemency.

Ms. Parry's Saudi lawyer, Salah Hejailan, said Wednesday that Mr. Gilford had agreed to a clemency deal involving "$500,000 for himself and $700,000 for a charity in Australia."

But Mr. Abbott said Thursday that his information was that the Saudi lawyer's comments had been made without instruction from his clients or their families, and that they had now disassociated themselves from the comments.

U.S. Pulls Back Flawed $50 Bills

The Associated Press

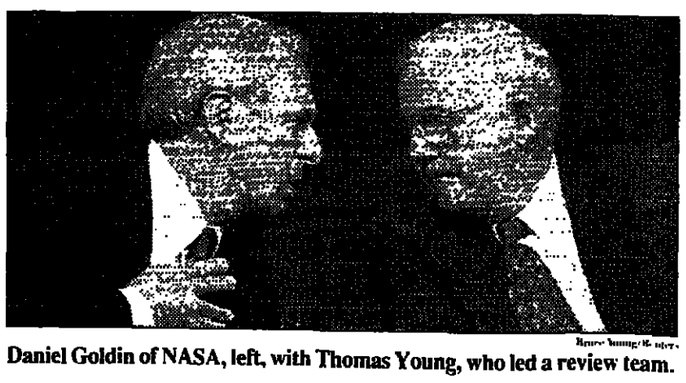
WASHINGTON — Thirty million newly designed $50 bills are being held out of circulation because of a smudge behind the portrait of Ulysses S. Grant.

Normally, the flaw would not be enough to keep the bills on the shelf. But Treasury Department and Federal Reserve officials said they want the first copies the public sees to be near perfect.

The new design, being introduced a year and a half after a new $100 note, is packed with features designed to thwart counterfeiters. A decision has not been made yet whether to destroy the flawed bills, which cost $1.44 million to make. They may circulate later.

"The notes that were produced are clearly functional notes," said Larry Felix, a spokesman for the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing. "But clearly, if you're going to introduce notes for the first time, you're going to make sure the notes are as flawless as possible."

He said the flaw, a small break in the fine concentric lines behind the portrait of Mr. Grant, is not unusual, even in bills the bureau has been printing for decades.



Bruce Young/R. Inter.

Daniel Goldin of NASA, left, with Thomas Young, who led a review team.

MIR: *A 'Go' for Astronaut to Join Russians*

Continued from Page 1

among the most vocal critics of the program. As chairman of the House Science Committee, he criticized Mr. Goldin's decision to send Dr. Wolf into space.

Mr. Sensenbrenner said he hoped the evaluations were "not a NASA whitewash of the many significant safety risks aboard Mir."

Although admitting that he had not yet read the reports, Mr. Sensenbrenner noted that one of the Mir review teams, headed by Thomas Young of the National Academy of Engineering, had been given only a week to do its work.

Another team, led by Lieutenant General Thomas Stafford, a former astronaut, included several members with past or present ties to NASA who, as a result, "may not have been totally candid," Mr. Sensenbrenner said.

Dr. Wolf, 41, a medical doctor and electrical engineer, was to become the sixth American astronaut to spend time on Mir. Dr. Wolf, who has spent the last year training for the flight in Russia, said this week that he was not expecting "a pleasure cruise," but added that he was comfortable with the levels of risk.

A former Gemini and Apollo astronaut, General Stafford, who had headed one of the studies reviewed by NASA, and Mr. Goldin expressed confidence in the safety of life-support systems aboard the orbiting space station.

General Stafford noted that although the public below had frequently been concerned by reports of computer breakdowns or oxygen failures, Mir has "five levels of redundancy" in its life-support systems. He added, "That's more than I ever had on Gemini or Apollo."

Amid growing criticism of the Mir project in Congress, proponents of U.S.-Russian space cooperation have say continued cooperation is crucial if work is to proceed on the planned International Space Station.

PRESS: *British Propose Curbs on Paparazzi by Widening Privacy*

Continued from Page 1

but an avid regulator could have regarded the piece as intrusive, he noted.

"The definition of what the public have a right to know should be left to editors," Mr. Marr said.

Unveiling the proposals, Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said: "It has become so much received wisdom that 'everything changed' that dreadful night in Paris nearly four weeks ago that I do not need to debate it." In a sign of how much Diana's death has affected opinion here, many leading editors adopted a similar attitude, voicing general support for the proposals at a meeting with Lord Wakeham.

The proposals also drew a warm welcome from the Labour government, which, in a country with no laws on either, has been urging the media to police themselves.

Chris Smith, secretary of state for culture and the media, said the industry should "take the process of self-regulation further so as to give full protection to people in all walks of life, and not only those who are famous or temporarily in the news."

Still, some editors questioned whether the new censorious mood was going too far and putting at risk the ability of the press to uncover corruption, political intrigue or other matters of public concern.

Lord Wakeham gave a hint of the difficulty by first suggesting a blanket ban on beach photographs but then allowing that celebrities could not expect privacy on a crowded, Mediterranean beach. A secluded beach in Cornwall or Scotland, he said, would be different.

INTERNATIONAL

Citing Supplies to Iran, Israel Pressures U.S. To Penalize Russians

By Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — With the support of pro-Israeli groups in the United States and many members of the U.S. Congress, Israel is pressing a reluctant Clinton administration to impose economic sanctions on Russian organizations and companies reported to be supplying ballistic missile technology to Iran.

Iran is a year or less away, with foreign help, from being able to produce long-range missiles, according to Israeli intelligence reports that have been substantially confirmed by U.S. officials.

Private and state-owned Russian firms are described as providing gyroscopes, which keep missiles on course to their targets; electronic components; wind tunnels, guidance and propulsion systems, and the equipment Iran needs to produce such components.

With ranges of 700 to 1,200 miles (1,120 to 1,920 kilometers), these missiles would enable Iran to hit targets in Western Europe, North Africa and South Asia, shifting the Middle East balance of power substantially toward Tehran, analysts said.

Israel, which has largely neutralized the military threat from its immediate neighbors, might be vulnerable to Iranian missiles loaded with chemical or biological agents, Israeli officials said.

While the Clinton administration agrees the Iranians are making swift progress toward self-sufficient missile production with Russian help, officials say they have been reluctant to impose sanctions on suspected Russian firms — some of which have or are seeking U.S. contracts — fearing that strong measures might strain President Bill Clinton's relations with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, urged Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to take stronger action against the Russians when he met her in Jerusalem earlier this month. This week, Israel sent its senior Foreign Ministry arms control official, Shimon Stein, to press the case in Washington.

Israel is not alone in its alarm about the Iranian missile potential. U.S. officials said the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and the small Arab sheikhdoms of the Gulf Cooperation Council had expressed deep concern about the issue when they met Mrs. Albright during her Middle East trip. They reportedly fear Iran's growing ability to intimidate its Arab neighbors and control the vital Gulf waterway.

But when it comes to discouraging Russian firms, a senior Clinton administration official said, "our preference is for diplomacy rather than sanctions."

Mr. Clinton, Mrs. Albright and Vice President Al Gore, who has been visiting Russia, have had several opportunities to pursue the issue with Russian officials. "The Israelis are not in as close touch with the Russians as we are, so they think it's not going anywhere," a senior Clinton administration official said. "But my sense is that we have the opportunity to make some progress."

Under the Gore-McCain Act — named for its sponsors, then-Senator Gore and Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona — sanctions are mandatory against any private or state-owned company or government organization that helps Iran acquire missile technology. Sanctioned organizations are excluded from doing business with the U.S. government, a potentially lethal blow to Russian contractors who have or want deals with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Pentagon.

According to Israeli intelligence reports confirmed by U.S. sources, such Russian organizations as Rosvooruzhenie, the state arms export agency, and NPO Trud, a maker of rocket motors, are exporting to Iran while having or seeking U.S. contracts.

Supporters of sanctions, including the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the chief pro-Israel lobbying group, argue that those contracts give the Clinton administration leverage over Russian organizations violating the 31-nation Missile Technology Control Regime, a treaty regulating missile exports, that the government does not have over Chinese companies facing similar accusations.

Frank Wisner, a senior State Department diplomat, has been in Russia seeking a crackdown on the exports. He reported Tuesday to Mr. Gore, who is in Russia for meetings with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"There is no doubt in my mind," Mr. Gore said, "that Russia is serious about wanting to rein in any unauthorized missile technology exports." He said Mr. Wisner and his Russian interlocutor, the director of space agency director, Yuri Koptev, have a "very intensive" investigation underway and will meet again within six weeks.

Israeli officials said that pace is too leisurely. "Either you act now or you soon have a fait accompli," a senior Israeli official said. Once Iran is self-sufficient, he said, diplomacy with the Russians becomes irrelevant.

Agence France-Presse

IRAQIS FREED — Some of the 46 Iraqi soldiers who were taken prisoner in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war lining up to kiss the chief of Iran's POW commission after their release on Thursday.

In Big Offensive, Turkey Bombs Kurdish Rebels in Iraq

By Kelly Couturier
Washington Post Service

ANKARA — Turkish warplanes bombed suspected positions of rebel Kurds inside Iraq on Thursday amid a new Turkish cross-border offensive that officials said was aimed at preventing the rebels from regrouping in camps along the border.

The offensive, begun earlier this week and reportedly involving an estimated 8,000 ground troops and 100 tanks and other armored vehicles, is the latest in a series of Turkish cross-border attacks against Kurdish Workers Party guerrillas over the past few years.

The latest operation was launched, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, because the guerrillas who had been cleared out of the area last summer were trying to retrench in camps along the mountainous border before winter set in.

The rebels have been waging an armed separatist insurgency in southeastern Turkey since 1984; in the past, they have staged raids in Turkey from bases in the Kurdish-controlled area in northern Iraq.

Military spokesmen were unavailable for comment. The Anatolian News Agency reported that Turkish jets had bombed 15 guerrilla positions near the Iranian and Syrian borders, where the guerrillas had reportedly fled following a large-scale Turkish operation in May and June.

The rebels reportedly had made inroads back into the area despite efforts by an armed Iraqi Kurdish faction allied with Ankara, the Kurdistan Democratic Party, to keep them out. The Turkish military offensive was reportedly intended to stop the rebels from moving toward Iran and Syria.

The Turkish military had reported great success in clearing the border area last June, saying it had destroyed the guerrilla's command-and-control installations at the border and had killed over 2,000 rebels.

Turkey has barred journalists from entering northern Iraq since early this year, making it virtually impossible to independently confirm the Turkish statements about its latest operation.

"We regularly take measures deemed necessary for our security," the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Sermet Atacanli, told reporters. He described the latest operation as "routine and limited."

But Baghdad, which has strongly criticized past Turkish incursions, protested the military operation.

"The Republic of Iraq strongly condemns the new Turkish military aggression which represents a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity," an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by Ath Thawra, a newspaper controlled by the ruling Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party.

BRIEFLY

12 Hurt in Crash of French TGV

PARIS — A high-speed passenger train crashed into a road maintenance vehicle near the northern French port of Dunkirk on Thursday, slightly injuring 12 of the 82 people on board, the police said.

The engine of the TGV train was derailed after hitting a asphalt-laying machine, said the French railroad company, SNCF. The vehicle's driver fled before the crash and was not injured, fire department officials said.

The TGV can run at speeds of up to 280 kilometers an hour (160 miles an hour), but was traveling much slower because it was on an older rail line, an SNCF official said. *(AP)*

Algerians Reject Outside Help

ALGIERS — The Algerian government has rejected any help from the international community to end the slaughter by armed groups fighting a bloody civil war, saying such calls were part of a plot by enemies of the nation, newspapers reported Thursday.

A series of massacres has brought a flurry of calls from international quarters for outside help in ending the killings, which have left more than 500 people dead since Aug. 29.

But the government has repeatedly rejected outside mediation as interference in the nation's internal affairs. A call by the secretary-general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, to find a solution to the crisis drew a rebuke.

An offer by the Islamic Salvation Army of a cease-fire, made public Wednesday, turned up the spotlight on the situation. The group, one of the two main insurgency organizations, called for a truce to start Oct. 1. There was no official reaction to the move, but the call was published Wednesday in pro-government newspapers. *(AP)*

Rebels Attack Towns in Colombia

BOGOTA — Rebels attacked two towns in eastern Colombia at dawn on Wednesday, killing a policeman, a soldier and a 9-year-old girl, and wounding 11 civilians.

In an apparent effort to head off a big army offensive in a nearby jungle region, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, Latin America's oldest and largest rebel force, simultaneously attacked police stations in Castillo and La Uribe, both in Meta Province.

Two civilians were killed in a separate rebel attack in southwest Colombia, while a rightist paramilitary death squad murdered four people in the north. *(Reuters)*

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A Bosnia Exit Strategy

Having already stretched America's troop commitment in Bosnia from 12 to 30 months, the Clinton administration has begun an effort to prepare public opinion for the possibility of an even longer stay.

That is the way to read Samuel Berger's speech at Georgetown University on Tuesday, when he linked the duration of American involvement to a notably ambitious set of policy goals. Mr. Berger, the president's national security adviser, is too hasty. Instead of managing the public relations of a longer stay, he should be using that time to try to produce a workable exit strategy by the June deadline.

Everyone wants a unified, democratic and prospering Bosnia. But congressional Republicans are right to warn that American soldiers cannot remain deployed until that goal is fully achieved. What was regrettably absent from Mr. Berger's speech was any sense of driving toward departure. It is clear from the speech that Mr. Berger and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright plan to spend the time between now and June urging President Bill Clinton once again to push back the withdrawal deadline.

Lack of an exit strategy has been a consistently troubling omission ever since President Clinton first sent American troops into Bosnia at the end of 1995. On Tuesday, administration officials spoke about the need to begin planning by February for the next phase of military involvement.

By our calendar it is still September, and such a focus on the hypothetical future is premature. The administration has nine months to clarify the specific military tasks that need to be accomplished before Bosnia is secure enough to allow a full American withdrawal.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison speaks for many Republicans and, no doubt, a number of Democrats when she warns the White House that without such an exit strategy, Congress will fight any extension requests.

Common sense argues against igniting a renewed war in Bosnia by precipitously withdrawing NATO troops. We readily concede that withdrawal deadlines cannot be set in cement without regard to protecting the progress that has already been made. Future events could even warrant an extended presence. But the administration is tilting the wrong way, and the current mind-set of Mr. Clinton's foreign policy team suggests that it will not discover a way out in the absence of a congressional revolt.

When Mr. Clinton first proposed sending American troops to Bosnia, skeptics argued that guaranteeing full respect for the Dayton peace agreements could take decades. The administration countered that all it meant to do was give the Bosnians a year to build the peace outlined at Dayton. As that one-year deadline approached, the White House gave the original mission a new name and extended it for 18 months. Now, as the administration seems to be preparing for yet another extension. Congress may have to force it to show that fundamental American interests require a continued military presence in Bosnia.

The two strongest arguments for staying are the persistence of deadly hatreds that could spark renewed hostilities once outside troops withdraw and the statements by various European governments that once American troops depart, their troops will be withdrawn as well. But the irresponsibility of Bosnian factional leaders and European allies should not push Washington into an expanded definition of America's own vital interests.

The United States has all along had a limited interest in Bosnia, consisting mainly of preventing the slaughter of civilians and preserving the unity and effectiveness of the NATO alliance. Beyond that there are some desirable goals, like bringing war crimes suspects to trial and allowing refugees to return to their homes. These warrant strong diplomatic exertions, supplemented, at least through June, by carefully planned military actions. There is a lot NATO troops can still do in this regard before their currently scheduled withdrawal date.

Building a united and peaceful Bosnia is ultimately up to the people of Bosnia. Policing Europe in the absence of acute threats like shooting wars is primarily the responsibility of European nations themselves. If the Bosnians will not work together and the Europeans will not shoulder greater security responsibilities on their own, the breach cannot be filled indefinitely with American troops.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES

Polish Democracy

If Poland is soon to become a NATO ally like Germany or Spain — and we hope it will — its internal politics are of more than passing interest to Americans. In that context, Sunday's parliamentary election is encouraging. This is so in part because democracy has become entrenched — so entrenched, in fact, that it would seem condescending even to say so were it not for the fact that only eight years have passed since communism gave way. The elections are encouraging, too, because they seem unlikely to affect the basic principles of Polish policy: the desire to join NATO and the West and the commitment to free markets and a civil society.

But the actual results of Sunday's vote are heartening as well. For the past four years, the post-Communist Democratic Left Alliance has been in charge. Despite the post-Communists' competent governance, and the steady economic growth under their rule, they were defeated Sunday by Solidarity Election Alliance, a grouping of three-dozen parties growing out of the democratic movement that toppled communism. Although no party won 50 percent of parliamentary seats, the post-Solidarity movement seems likely to form a coalition with Freedom Union, another Solidarity outgrowth.

Despite the historical resonance of the names, the fault lines here are not democracy vs. dictatorship or reform vs. reaction. If anything, in fact, the post-Communists are more clearly committed to free-market economic reform than many elements of the Solidarity coalition. But many Poles feared that the post-Communists, if given a second consecutive term, would harden their grip on government administration and privatized industry. To prevent that and to foster a healthy exchange of power, voters took a chance on a less-experienced team.

The prospect of a post-Solidarity coalition is not without risks. One is of inconstancy, given how many small parties are included. Another is of resistance to further reform. Much of Solidarity's support comes from the giant, and still state-owned, shipyards and coal mines that cannot survive without huge subsidies — subsidies Poland cannot afford. But Solidarity's credibility with the workers of those enterprises may make it the only party that could convince them of the need to continue reform, with appropriate safety nets in place. Freedom Union, led by the architect of Poland's original shock therapy, will also tug toward reform if it emerges as a junior coalition partner. And Poland's desire for integration into the West also will help keep it on track. The key now is for the West — including both NATO and the European Union — to welcome Poland as the democracy it has become.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Privatizing Chinese Life

Even when Jiang Zemin wins, he loses. In the run-up to the 15th Party congress, the Chinese president had been compared unfavorably with his predecessors for his ability to dictate the direction of both China and its ruling Communist Party. The irony is that if Mr. Jiang succeeds with his economic reforms, he and his successors will find themselves with even less power.

The substantive achievement was the party's decision to sell off all but a few of the estimated 118,000 industrial state enterprises. No doubt the absence of any parallel moves toward a more open political system explains the half-hearted nature of the applause. Our own guess is that trying to confine reform into neat political and economic categories misses the point. In China, economic reform is not simply a spur to greater productivity but a means of privatizing life. The more enterprises are taken out of state hands, the more decisions are returned to the people.

— Far Eastern Economic Review (Hong Kong).

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What Makes a Legend? Some Foreign Policy Tips

By Richard N. Haass

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton is said to be increasingly preoccupied with his legacy.

If so, and if he's counting on foreign policy to help, he'd better hurry. Time is running out.

In the aftermath of the 1998 midterm elections, the president will truly begin to turn into a lame duck. Moreover, Mr. Clinton may have his hands full just reacting to events.

There's sure to be a difficult situation in Bosnia come the summer of 1998, the arbitrary date selected for the departure of the current multilateral force. A violent breakdown of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is one possibility, while a crisis on the Korean Peninsula cannot be discounted.

If the president is to leave a lasting and creative imprint on foreign affairs, he must act now. But act where?

The first post-Cold War president has so far devoted most of the limited time given to foreign policy in his second term to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a child of the Cold War. The problem is that making NATO bigger is not all that important.

Wherever one comes out on the wisdom of enlarging NATO, the reality is that expansion is not a modern-day equivalent of its creation. A NATO of 19 states will be more a political than a military grouping, its role increasingly that of a holding company that provides some support for those members willing to act in particular situations.

Alliances depend on clear foes and obvious scenarios for their cohesion. It is precisely the absence of such clarity and predictability that captures the emerging nature of post-Cold War politics.

What is more, shepherding NATO enlargement through a critical Senate demands enormous time and energy — despite the reality that Europe and the Atlantic will not be as central to the world of the next century as they were to this one.

The post-Cold War world will be dominated by events in the Asia-Pacific. More major powers will confront one another in the Far East than anywhere else.

• With that in mind, priority one for the administration in its second term should be China. There is an emerging consensus of left and right that threatens to base U.S. foreign policy toward China on human rights, trade or both. This would be a strategic error.

Liberalism in China is most likely to be the product of economic growth — a policy of sanctions will only work against what it is America seeks.

Moreover, the United States has multiple interests at stake, including deterring any use of force against Taiwan, discouraging the provision of nuclear technology to Iran and eliciting help vis-à-vis North Korea. Only determined diplomacy has the potential to see these interests advanced.

• A second area that the White House should focus on is trade. Here President Clinton can build upon the impressive foundation laid during his first term, notably NAFTA and the World Trade Organization. Building a legacy around trade would involve enlarging NAFTA to include Chile and others, accelerating reforms in the Asia-Pacific, proposing a free-trade area with Europe and reforming the WTO.

Nothing will happen, though, without both a concerted push for "fast track" authority — without which it will prove impossible to negotiate accords free of the danger of ruinous congressional amendments — and a detailed road map.

• A third focus for the White House should be the Middle East. It is a focus born less of choice than necessity. Up to now, Mr. Clinton has garnered considerable credit even though he has done little more than be a host at events. The time has long since arrived for the president to start using his voice — publicly if need be — to pressure the local parties to act responsibly.

Israel should be encouraged to be more generous in what land it returns, more forthcoming in economic policies affecting Palestinians, more restrained in any settlement building. Palestinians need to be pushed to rewrite their covenant and rein in violence and terror.

Failure by any party to meet any of these standards ought to meet with clear and consistent criticism from the Oval Office.

Whether Mr. Clinton will choose to tackle this agenda is anybody's guess. He would have to take to the bully pulpit with a fervor he has shown thus far only when discussing race relations, health care and jobs. What is required is a national dialogue on foreign policy and the United States's relationship with the world.

And it would mean that the president was willing to adopt some controversial stands that would weaken short-term support for his administration and create problems for a White House bid in 2000 by Vice President Al Gore.

Would it be worth it? The short answer is yes. China, trade, the Middle East — all have more potential to shape the next century than NATO enlargement. They also have more potential to shape a legacy.

During the last campaign, Mr. Clinton made much of his wish to be a bridge to the next century. Absent a more ambitious foreign policy, the risk is that he may turn out to be just that and nothing more.

The writer is director of foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution. This article, distributed by the New York Times Syndicate, was adapted from a piece that appears in the Fall 1997 issue of Foreign Policy magazine.

The Focus Now Should Be on Getting Mines Out of the Ground

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — It is a mistake for the United States to refuse endorsement of a formal ban on land mines that nearly 100 countries have pledged to sign in Ottawa in December. The pact is a disarmament milestone seeking to end a plague that kills and maims mostly unwary civilians, especially children, for many years after a war has ended.

The United States wanted to include some unnecessary exceptions, but other countries rightly insisted that this important humanitarian advance should not be diluted with loopholes. The bulletin of the American Arms Control Association said that "if the United States is not there" when the pact is signed, "it will ultimately be more of a problem for the United States than for the land-mine convention."

The bulletin called the agreement on the ban "an extraordinary moment" in the history of arms control, reflecting the fruition of a long and arduous grassroots campaign. But it is not enough. Recent estimates are that there are now some 150 million mines laid in many countries around the world. Even if deployment is completely ended, it would take more than 100 years to clear them with current techniques, at a cost that runs to some $1,500 per mine.

Mines are very cheap, as little as $3 each. In addition to the United States, which did at last ban the export of mines in 1992, countries that do not accept the Ottawa initiative include Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Greece, Turkey, North and South Korea and most of the Middle East.

Diana, Princess of Wales, adopted the cause of the anti-land mine campaign and traveled to Bosnia and Angola to publicize it not long before her death, one of the gestures that won her so much affection and admiration. It would be well fitting for some of the funds that have been collected to honor her memory — reports say $1 billion — to be used for the next essential step.

That is detection and clearing. The difficult and dangerous techniques now in use have scarcely changed since World War I, when mines came into widespread use. Some of those old ones still go off. With all the high-tech advances in munitions and weaponry since then, there has never been a determined effort to devise more efficient techniques. In fact, detection has become harder because of the use of plastic mines, which can't be found with a metal detector.

But the scientific principle of a much better way to find the mines has been established. What is lacking is adequate research on design, engineering and production of mine-clearing devices. Some years ago, British experts told me they were convinced that some $10 million and three or four years would be enough to turn out effective systems at a reasonable cost. Even if it took three or four times that much funding, it would clearly be an invaluable boon to humanity.

The lack of research has been due to lack of motivation. Powerful and rich military research programs haven't been interested because the military can satisfy its own needs, quite different from those of civilians. There has never been a big enough buying-power market to interest commercial investors.

Until now, by far the best detection method is using dogs trained at sniffing explosives. It is obvious that a chemical reaction device could be designed to do what the dogs do. There have been some promising experiments, but they haven't had enough resources to solve the problem and find a way to reduce costs.

And yet the cost of the damage mines do is in the billions. In addition to death and injuries, which require rehabilitation, prostheses, lifelong care, the deployed mines deny the use of vast tracts of arable land to peasants who need to get back to farming in the aftermath of wartime destruction.

Africa has more mine-infected territory than any other continent, but the danger lies in many places. Even the Falklands still harbor fields of unexploded mines left from the brief British-Argentine war there.

The decision to stop the production and sowing of mines, if it is truly observed — and that is far from guaranteed — will keep the rate of casualties from increasing. But only clearing will end them.

To find the way to get this done reasonably soon would be not only a truly humane project for the Princess Diana fund, it could become a self-supporting investment in care for mine victims. When an economically affordable device has been patented, royalties could be earmarked for care for those now suffering and the hundreds of thousands who will suffer between now and then.

It is incredible that so little has been done as yet. The attention generated by the campaign to ban mines must also, and urgently, be turned to the quite feasible task of getting rid of those already lurking in the ground and threatening unborn generations.

© Flora Lewis

Quit Hammering the Swiss and Let the Facts Do the Talking

By Thomas L. Friedman

GENEVA — There is a struggle going on in Switzerland today. It is a struggle between fury and shock. It is important that shock wins. It's not clear that it will.

The fury here emerges from a widespread feeling that Switzerland has been unfairly singled out for profiting from its neutrality in World War II. This fury lurks just beneath the sentences of any conversation about the Swiss-Holocaust-gold issue, and it occasionally bursts forth in anti-Semitism or anti-Americanism.

The shock is the shock of discovering that some of the Swiss people's most cherished national self-images were myths: Their stand against the Nazis in World War II was not entirely the heroic saga, with pitchforks and rifles, related by their grandparents. Rather it was an ambiguous cocktail of resistance, profiteering, self-serving neutrality, help for some Jewish refugees, indifference to others and obstinacy by Swiss bankers when asked after the war to return money belonging to Nazi victims.

Analysts here acknowledge that without the sledgehammer, and shock treatment, from the U.S. and Jewish organizations to get the Swiss to confront these truths, Swiss banks would never have come clean. "You have to understand the mentality of the bankers," says Guy Mettan, editor of the Tribune de Genève. "It's not a robber mentality. They just lived behind the frontier that separated Switzerland and the rest of Europe. They never took consciousness of the Holocaust — so they could not recognize the legitimate demands of the survivors. But the Swiss are not bad people. They needed an emotional shock, but now what they need are just facts, presented coolly, with deadlines for responding."

Though belated, the Swiss government response has been largely one of shock, not fury, and it has moved substantially to make amends. It established a $140 million fund from leading private banks; a government commission, led by the American Paul Volcker, to investigate the banks, and a commission to investigate the Swiss war record. The government is holding off, though, on a national vote on whether to set up a $4.7 billion fund, the interest from which would go to humanitarian causes. Officials here fear that right now the Swiss public would vote it down.

Which brings us back to fury. While the official response is impressive, the public mood is moving the other way. Many view the humanitarian funds as just another deal by the bankers to get the world, and the Jews, off their backs. What is still needed is a Swiss accounting with themselves — one in which they acknowledge that just because they host the Red Cross and the UN doesn't absolve them of moral responsibilities in the world. That is a tough discussion which is only just beginning.

"For the first time," François Garai, a leading Geneva rabbi, told me, "there is a sense now that Switzerland was not quite clean at that time of the war. I have contacts with other clergy. Before we never spoke about the actions of Switzerland and the banks during the war, and now people bring it up with me."

The world has an interest in that discussion's flowering, and not having it postponed or aborted by an upsurge of popular fury and defensiveness here. That is why it would be best now that everyone, including grandstanding U.S. politicians (read Senator Alfonse D'Amato), take one step back, put down the emotional sledgehammers and just let the cool facts do the talking.

"The Swiss government has done so much and gotten so little credit that more threats now would really be counterproductive," says Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, who has overseen the U.S. investigation into the Swiss gold affair.

The Swiss will never open up inside if they think there will never be closure from the outside. They will never focus on the past if they feel perpetually besieged in the present. Said Bernard Ziegler, former governor of Geneva and a director of one of the Holocaust aid funds: "People here always thought that we were better than all others. This debate now is good because it shows the Swiss that they are not better. They did good things and bad things. And if all of this is handled right, something good may come out of it. It might bring the Swiss out of their isolationism and teach them that they have to show more solidarity with other people."

The New York Times.

The Long Road From Little Rock

By Rodney E. Slater

WASHINGTON — Forty years ago Thursday, nine African-American students took a long walk down a short block and integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

I was 2 years old when those brave students walked through angry, jeering crowds, past armed soldiers to the front door of the all-white Central High. It was not until years later that, as an African-American teenager, I had the occasion to go to school with white children, in Marianna, Arkansas.

And still it was not easy. After my school canceled a program celebrating the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, students staged a sit-in. They were chased from the school grounds by firemen spraying high-powered blasts of water. The student officers, including myself, who had been meeting in the principal's office were taken to the police station. We did not go back to school that year. And when I did go back, I was not allowed to play sports, a severe penalty for someone who later went to college on a football and academic scholarship.

We have come a long way since then. Our economy is healthy, unemployment is low and the African-American middle class has grown substantially.

But despite our progress, we are slowed by unfinished business. We still are wary of those different from us. Too often, we talk less to each other and more at each other, if we talk at all. As terrible as things were 40 years ago, at least people knew exactly where they stood. Things were out in the open and on the table. Ironically, racism clad in a hooded sheet was much more identifiable than much of the racism of today, which often wears a smile and a business suit.

And tensions now go beyond the conflict between black and white: the vile burning of churches, a resurgence of anti-Semitism and hostility toward new immigrants.

But we have to learn to live together, because the face of America is changing. Today in Hawaii, everyone is a minority.

Soon this will be true of California. And 40 years from now, there will be no majority race in America.

We can look at statistics and know what America will look like in the 21st century. But we have to look inside ourselves to determine what America will be like in the 21st century.

The president is asking all Americans to join him in a national conversation about race to face one another honestly across lines that still divide us. Clearly, now is the time for honest dialogue, the time to build a society that recognizes the worth of all people and honors the dignity of every person.

Until every American has real economic opportunity and first-rate educational opportunity, there will be disparities that will look like racial discrimination, whether they are or not.

Laws can change institutions, but they cannot change what is in people's hearts.

The writer is U.S. secretary of transportation. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1897: Clouds Looming

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] Two storm centres, bringing threatening war clouds to America, are visible on the horizon of the Western hemisphere and the diplomatic barometer is falling. One comes from Japan and presages a disturbance over the Hawaiian Islands. The other comes from Spain and portends a cyclone in the West Indies over Cuba. Perhaps both may burst at once. However, as to Cuba, there is perhaps less danger, because the diplomatic resources of Spain and the United States have not yet been exhausted.

1922: Refugees in Peril

GENEVA — Two hundred thousand Christian refugees in Smyrna are in grave peril of massacre, despite the fact that peace negotiations are under way between the Powers and Mustapha Kemal. This is the alarming news which the British Government communicated to Lord Balfour to-day [Sept. 25], with a request that he should make an appeal to the nations assembled here to double their collective efforts to remove the refugees from the devastated city and furnish them with food.

1947: Hirohito Cleared

TOKYO — Chief Prosecutor Joseph B. Keenan absolved Japanese Emperor Hirohito today [Sept. 25] of any responsibility for the Pacific war in a statement to an international tribunal here. The following was the prosecution position: "A group of gangsters seized control of the Japanese government and are responsible for waging war against the United States. They deceived Hirohito and defrauded the Japanese people into believing the Emperor was with them in waging this aggressive warfare."

OPINION/LETTERS

For Some in Britain, the Weeping Was Overdone

By Anne Applebaum

LONDON — The scene is a London cocktail party, not long after the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales. On the surface, all is as it should be: There are canapés, crudités and champagne, men in suits, a speech from the man whose birthday it is. But if you had watched the mournful crowds laying flowers at Kensington Palace, the conversation might strike you as somewhat odd.

"Wasn't it ghastly," one guest says to another. (He means the funeral, not the accident.) "The British press at its worst," the other agrees. (He means the adulation granted posthumously to Diana, not the paparazzi who chased her during the last month of her life.)

A journalist muses about Nuremberg rallies and mass hysteria; a historian says that the sight of the mob baying for the queen to make a public statement of regret for the death reminds him of the behavior of the London mobs in the Middle Ages.

A former government minister lowers his voice when speaking: "I don't want to say it too loudly," he explains, "but I think Charles Spencer should be horsewhipped back to South Africa."

He was referring to the funeral oration made by Diana's brother, during which Lord Earl Charles Spencer implied that the Spencer family was better suited than the royal family to raise the princess's sons. Given that Lord Spencer lives abroad, has hardly spent much time with the young princes over the past few years and has not had the most tranquil of private lives, the former government minister thought this a bit rich.

But then, so did many other people. You could have had a similar conversation anywhere in Britain since the accident, in a restaurant, over the telephone, at a dinner party — anywhere, that is, except in public. No one spoke critically of the princess or her brother on the television news. On the contrary, all of the very un-British talk was of the "nation mourning" or of what the "people" felt about the "people's princess."

Not many newspapers dared criticize the motives of those laying flowers, either. Stiff upper lips slackened, as editors fell over one another to see who could contribute more money to the charity fund now set up in the princess's honor in between printing long, saccharine interviews with people who slept on sidewalks for two days so they could see the funeral.

Certainly, no politicians have complained publicly about the manner in which events have unfolded, not even when the frequently unfair press criticism of the queen or Prince Charles got dangerously out of hand.

Prime Minister Tony Blair abandoned British reserve altogether, allowing his voice to crack when speaking of Diana, while the leader of the opposition Conservative Party, William Hague, has helpfully suggested Heathrow Airport be renamed in her honor. This prompted one of the more daring newspaper columnists to suggest this was not, perhaps, the best sort of memorial: thousands of people complaining they had "lost their luggage at Princess of Wales."

Something much worse, or certainly much more powerful, than political correctness has taken hold of the British media and the British political elite: paralyzing fear of saying anything negative about Diana, or the people publicly mourning Diana, or the ideas of the people publicly mourning Diana.

Do not be misled by television or the British press. The great 19th-century British prime minister Benjamin Disraeli once spoke of Britain as a country of "two nations," by which he meant the rich and the poor. Britain once again feels like two nations: those who are still weeping in public, and those who quietly find the public weeping extremely hard to take.

How to explain the divide? I thought at first that it had to do with access to information about Diana. Anyone who worked on a newspaper knew, for example, that she courted publicity when it was in her interest to do so and dealt happily with the correspondents of tabloids when she desired their attention — which does take the edge off the idea that, in Lord Spencer's words, she was the "most hunted woman in the world."

Equally, anyone who had access to old clipping files could easily find the less-flattering stories — about how the princess had, for example, dissociated herself from most of her charities a few years ago, in most cases by sending a terse fax.

But plenty of people without any special access to Diana felt the same way. At least one banker friend announced that he and his other banker friends had been supporting one another's skepticism by e-mail: frequent messaging, he explained, made them feel less isolated amid the general public uproar.

This being Britain, I then assumed the divide must be a class thing. The working classes were mourning the lost fairy-tale princess. The higher reaches of society — again, those who knew her or knew someone who knew her — were less likely to describe her as "England's Mother Teresa."

That was until I got into a taxi the day before the funeral.

"Going out of town this weekend?" asked the driver.

"No," I said.

"I sure wish I was," he said emphatically. Far from submitting to the general mood of grief, as one would expect during what was described as a "national crisis," he began complaining bitterly about traffic.

Perhaps, then, it was a left/right, Labour/Tory divide?

Not quite. It is true that committed monarchists took the queen's side after the anger against her. And the traditionalist Prince Charles camp always disliked the more "modern" Princess of Wales. But it is also the case that many of my left-wing, anti-monarchist friends have felt less than pleased about the events.

"I thought we were a liberal democracy," fumed one of them, "not a mob dictatorship."

The division probably cannot be explained sociologically. I suspect it comes down to a question of character. Some people want to invent a saint; some people do not. Along with the banker and the taxi driver, I think it is possible to respect the princess's good works, to feel sad that a young woman died violently, yet not to delude oneself into believing that she was something that she was not.

The writer, a columnist for the Sunday Telegraph in London, contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

Bill Clinton, Faulkner And Southern Baroque

By Carlos Fuentes

PARIS — During this month, which marks the centennial of William Faulkner's birth, I am reminded of a dinner a couple of summers back at William Styron's house on Martha's Vineyard. The Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez and I were guests at the dinner Mr. Styron offered in honor of President Bill Clinton.

After an hour or so of political talk, the president said that, finding himself surrounded by writers, he would like to know the favorite novel of each of us. Mr. Styron, expectedly and to general applause, chose Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn."

MEANWHILE

Mr. García Márquez's choice was far less expected: "The Count of Monte Cristo," by Alexandre Dumas. Why? Because it is the greatest novel on education, Mr. García Márquez answered. You throw a barely literate young sailor into a dungeon of the Château d'If and 15 years later he comes out knowing mathematics, astronomy, physics, high finance, three dead languages and seven living ones — as well as all the gossip of the current Parisian scene.

I was about to tell the truth — "Don Quixote" by Cervantes is my favorite novel — but I bit my tongue and opted for second best, William Faulkner's "Absalom, Absalom!" I knew we all wanted to hear Mr. Clinton speak about his own land, the South, in which, said Katherine Anne Porter, "we are the children of a lost war."

Mr. Clinton then spoke with great frankness and emotion of his childhood and early youth in Arkansas. He spoke of the tensions within his family and within his society. As a teenager, he told us, he took a bus to Oxford, Mississippi, in order to visit the house of William Faulkner just to satisfy his certainty that the South was more than racism, burnt churches and the Klan. It was also the land of William Faulkner. The South could also produce a great literary genius. He went on to quote a couple of passages, not the easiest ones, from "The Sound and the Fury." The next day, Mr. García Márquez and I hurried to Mr. Styron's library and checked out the accuracy of the quotes. They were almost verbatim.

At dinner, the president quoted passages from 'The Sound and the Fury.'

When I was a young man, William Faulkner was not regarded as a universal or even national writer but as a "regional" author, dismissed as a "Dixie Gongorist." Well, for a Latin American, to be compared to Luis de Gongora, the great baroque 17th-century Spanish poet, was, even if meant pejoratively, no mean tribute.

But then, was this what the American South and Latin America, Faulkner and we had in common? Not the culture of the North, where "nothing succeeds like success," but the culture of the South, where defeat is not unknown?

The baroque — a style marked by extravagant, complex, ambiguous and bizarre forms — is the aesthetics of the New World, the art that permits the vanquished Indians and the enslaved Africans to recover their gods and their dreams under the domes of Christianity.

It is also, thanks to Faulkner, the literary space where the South can recognize itself fully as a multiracial, modern society. History, in Faulkner's novels, is rooted in the present, where we can all come together in remembrance and desire. For, as he himself put it, "The present, you know, began 10,000 years ago, but the past began one minute ago."

The author's most recent book is "A New Time for Mexico." This article was distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Free Trade's Benefits

Regarding "Globalization's Depredations Are Real and Brutal" (Opinion, Sept. 25) by William Pfaff:

Mr. Pfaff's arguments exaggerate the impact of globalization on the freedom of national governments to manipulate economic behavior. At best, the ability of national governments to meddle in their subjects' lives has stabilized.

Second, he ignores the economic consequences of free trade, which have been overwhelmingly positive, most of all for workers. Look at the growth in wages in the Asian "tiger" nations in the last 20 years. Does Mr. Pfaff think Taiwan's workers would like to go back to artisanal manufacture?

No system of economic development is perfect. There are always casualties. The evidence shows that the damage caused by free trade is infinitesimal compared with protectionist policies, particularly in corrupt oligarchies.

W. REGINALD HALL.
Hong Kong.

Prosperity and Peace

Edward Said's article *("There Can Be No Peace Without Respect," Opinion, Sept. 11)* plainly reflects a deep wound in his nation's psyche. This is understandable, for despite its strategic location, the glory of its Islamic culture and the immense reserves of oil with which it is graced, the Arab world has failed to make the grade in the 20th century.

Mr. Said's woe is mine too, for I too am desperate for peace. However, without a prior social, political and economic convergence of Palestinian and Israeli societies, Middle East peace will not happen. The Palestinian people must see and feel direct benefits from the peace if it is to last. There is no greater threat to peace than a people that is bitter and frustrated.

Instead of haggling over a hectare here and a dunam there, Yasser Arafat should be demanding the means to establish a social security system whose payments to the unemployed would both ease their pain and jump-start the Palestinian economy.

Mr. Arafat must learn, as his rivals in the radical Islamic movements have, that at the end of the 20th century, the loyalty of the citizenry has more to do with health care than with the arming of the police force.

And Israel must be prepared to pay for peace, not just in terms of land but in cash. It must recognize that the prosperity of its neighbors is a primary Israeli interest.

When the standards of the Palestinian police and legal system, together with its social security and public administration, accord with those of modern, enlightened societies, not only will the Palestinians be able to live a decent life of independence and democracy, but many Jews, too, will be willing to live under their jurisdiction. This is the way to solve the settlements issue.

Mr. Said is right to blame Israel for his woes, but not for the reasons he cites. The greatest misfortune to befall the Palestinians in the 20th century was not the creation of the state of Israel, but their subsequent pathological obsession with it. They must get over the fact of Israel's existence and learn that living well is the best form of revenge.

JEREMY L. PFEFFER.
Rehovot, Israel.

Germany's Future

Regarding "While Kohl Tours New Currency, Many Germans Cry: 'Not Again!'" (Sept. 19):

I found the report comprehensive and well-balanced. To compare Chancellor Helmut Kohl with Bismarck in regard to European monetary union is, however, unfortunate.

Bismarck was wary of people who talked about "Europe" because he suspected that they hid their own interests behind it. He was confident enough both to defend German interests and to pay due respect to the interests of other nations.

This is an art Germans should learn again, instead of wasting time on the kind of idiot-proof devices Mr. Kohl seems to be looking for. Germany's future is too high a price to pay for its past.

CLAUDIUS KLEIN.
Berlin.

A Troubling Bill

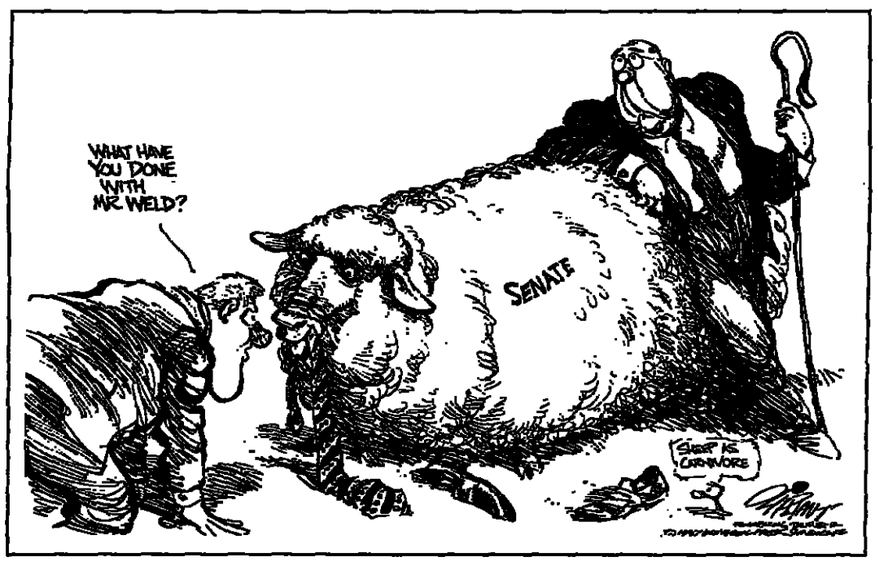
Regarding "An Unnecessary Focus on Religious Persecution" (Opinion, Sept. 13) by Anthony Lewis:

I found Mr. Lewis's article on the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act troubling. As an American living and working abroad, it has become increasingly clear to me that my fellow countrymen and women are moving further and further into a self-imposed form of global isolation.

As a Christian minister, I am alarmed to see that the religious right is the political force behind this equivocal act, which appears to have the potential to upset the delicate balance of international relations with countries such as China and Saudi Arabia.

It is clearly not in the best interest of the United States, nor of the Christian community, to approve legislation such as this, which would only be viewed by the global community as a knee-jerk reaction by an obstreperous element of American society.

REVEREND BOB WHITE.
London.



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BOOKS

SIBERIAN LIGHT

By Robin White. 441 pages. $25.95. Delacorte.

Reviewed by Anthony Olcott

SOME of the best new mysteries today are the *detektivs* being banged out by Russians, who are scribbling furiously to turn quick *baksy* on their countrymen's insatiable appetite for pulp fiction. Flailing about in the moral fog of present-day Russia, the new Russian mysteries are raw, intense and — so far at least — seldom translated.

Which is why Robin White's "Siberian Light" is heartily recommended to any mystery fan curious about the Russian *detektivs* but disinclined to invest the time necessary to master Russian. Set in the oilfields of Siberia, White's novel manages to encompass all the paradoxes of Russian life today.

Gregori Nowek, a petrologist fired for trying to prevent a pipeline spill, has gotten himself elected mayor, largely on the strength of his campaign slogan, "Be Honest, Can I Do Any Worse?" Nowek's village is sunk in poverty and decay, its only source of income the Amer-Rus oil exploration joint venture, which, alarmingly, isn't pumping much oil. Even Nowek's 16-year-old daughter would prefer to become a "hostess" in Hong Kong rather than remain in that blighted Siberian bog.

Some people, though, are getting rich: Kaznin, once the regional KGB head, now in "private security"; Yufa, head of the local *mafiya*; and Ryzkhov, a "fixer." Except that persons unknown have now slit Ryzkhov's throat, also killing two of Nowek's cops, who stepped in at the wrong moment. His town has no funds to pay their salaries, so Nowek feels he should at least see where the cops died: when it becomes clear that someone wants desperately to hush these murders up, Nowek decides to find out for himself what really happened. When some stray pebbles from the lugs of the killer's boot point the ex-geologist mayor in the direction of the Americans, Nowek knows that the price of truth could well be his own neck. In the best traditions of both the American hard-boiled detective story and the new Russian *detektiv*, Nowek gets stabbed, beaten and nearly drowned but still plods ahead.

Like the novel's sex murderer, its man-eating tiger and the "terrible secret" of its climax, White's heroine, Anna, is one of the many "for-Hollywood" touches that make "Siberian Light" an Americanization rather than a genuine detektiv. A world-class biologist trying to save the Siberian tiger, Russian by blood but American by birth, and drop-dead gorgeous even in taiga boots, Anna is also supposed to look exactly like Nowek's adored but dead wife.

However, "Siberian Light" is only Americanized; it is not false. Indeed, one of the puzzles of this novel is how an author who muffs so many little details — not-quite-Russian names, mistranslated Russian phrases, and such oddities as Nowek's claim to Anna that Soviets of his age "had to memorize" Pasternak's Zhivago poems in school — can get the overall Russian-ness of this novel so incredibly, vividly correct.

One reason certainly is White's descriptions, which capture perfectly the chaos of new Russia, where American-style townhouses are plunked down alongside tottering barracks and bucolic Siberian meadows sit drowned in spilled oil.

The deeper and more satisfying accuracy of "Siberian Light," however, springs from White's sure sketching of Russia as a place where "ownership meant nothing, control, everything, and everything, absolutely everything, was up for grabs," a place where, as White points out, bribe-takers accept payment by Visa card. The most exhilarating part of reading the new Russian detektivs is to see them argue to their readers that no czar or commissar will lead them from what White calls a "shadowland," because genuine justice springs only from the stubborn insistence of individuals to do what is right, no matter what this might cost them.

Nowek's determination not to be lied to, not to be pushed aside and not to let loved ones be trampled into the mud by others rushing for the trough would be almost a cliché if this novel were set in America. White has done such a convincing job of setting this simple heroism in Russia, however, that "Siberian Light" gives an excellent approximation of what it is like to watch the crime writers of Russia today struggling to build a new morality amid the wreckage of their shattered history.

Anthony Olcott, a professor at Colgate University who is writing a book on Soviet and Russian detective fiction, wrote this for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

Alan Truscott

THE 12th annual charity game for the Israel Cancer Research Fund was won by Selma Schlechter.

Schlechter gained on the diagramed deal shown at right, which presented South with a borderline decision: whether to overcall the opening one-heart bid with two clubs.

If South was vulnerable, the overcall would be unwise, but as it was most players were willing to venture. Since East-West can make a part score in hearts or no-trump, they are likely to score badly if they choose to defend. However, Schlechter passed as West and passed for penalties when her partner reopened with a double. Down one would be a good result for the declarer, and down two good for the defense.

NORTH (D)
♠ 9 8 6
♡ K 8 6 3
◇ 7 6 5 4
♣ J 6

WEST
♠ K 7 2
♡ 4 2
◇ Q J 10 8
♣ K 10 7 3

EAST
♠ A Q 4
♡ Q J 10 7 5
◇ K 9 3
♣ Q 5

SOUTH
♠ J 10 5 3
♡ A 9
◇ A 2
♣ A 9 8 4 2

East and West were vulnerable.

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	1 ♡	2 ♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West led the heart four.

South was sure to lose three spade tricks and a diamond, but the prospects in the trump suit were obscure.

The heart lead was won by the ace. South cashed the diamond ace and surrendered a trick in that suit. East won and played a third round, which was ruffed. South exited with a spade, and the defenders took the queen, ace and king. West led her remaining diamond. East discarded and South ruffed. Dummy was entered with a heart lead to the king, leaving the position shown at right.

South led the club jack from dummy, and had no chance of making more than one trick, for down two, when East covered with the queen. Leading a heart and discarding the spade jack does not help.

The right play is to lead a heart and ruff with the club eight, insuring a second club trick and down one. The eventual winners scored 92 out of a possible 100, but would have received only 26 if South had escaped for down one.

NORTH
♠ —
♡ 8 6
◇ —
♣ J 6

WEST
♠ —
♡ —
◇ —
♣ K 10 7 3

EAST
♠ —
♡ Q J
◇ —
♣ Q 5

SOUTH
♠ J
♡ —
◇ —
♣ A 9 8

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At Home in Ireland: A Taste of Old and New

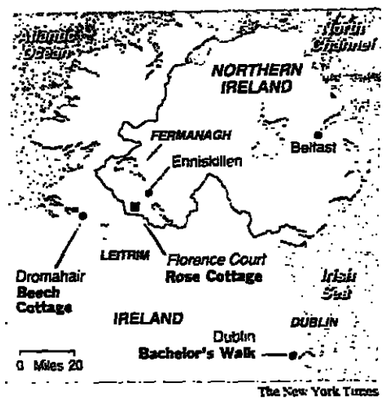
From Cottages to Apartments

By J. M. Fenster

DUBLIN — The Earls of Enniskillen don't live at Florence Court anymore. They no longer enjoy the view from the 18th-century mansion to the wilds and hills of County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. Nor do they sit in the salons, all plasterwork and good paintings, waiting for a servant to bring a morsel from the cavernous kitchen below. The last earl left in 1973; these days the National Trust, which owns Florence Court, locks it up as soon as the last tour leaves. But visitors staying at Rose Cottage, a house in the midst of the Florence Court gardens, can still fall asleep in the hush of the old estate.

The National Trust, which has accommodations for guests at about 230 of its historic properties and natural preserves in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, started renting Rose Cottage three years ago. It is one of four such sites (with a total of 13 cottages) in Northern Ireland, all of them either on the ocean or attached to great houses.

In the Republic of Ireland, private property owners rent apartments or cottages to vacationers under similar conditions: a catalogue published by the Irish Tourist Board, "Ireland Self-Catering Guide," lists historic accommodations in addition to modern cottages available by the score, especially near the ocean.



The New York Times

To rent a home is to live in Ireland, not merely to visit in the isolation of a hotel room. The pace is much different; the simplest chores reveal correspondingly simple graces, and moreover, there is no pressure to get up and out in the morning.

Inspired by my own ancient dream of buying a house in Ireland, I decided to rent three homes over the course of 10 days last March with my parents. Two of the places were in the countryside and one was in Dublin.

Rose Cottage

The directions on the confirmation read, "The key will be on the oak tree by the driveway." That was check-in. Rose Cottage is just off the lane leading to Florence Court, and out of sight of the mansion: a two-story, turn-of-the-century brick house with windows framed in white and lined with lace curtains. Built as the head gardener's residence, it overlooks the estate's formal rose garden from nearly every room.

The interior was renovated in 1994 to include two bedrooms and two bathrooms, a kitchen, a living room and a dining room. The kitchen is fully equipped, with a small table of its own looking out on a private corner of the garden. The cottage has modern appliances, including a washing machine and a television.

Florence Court, which is open daily for tours from May to August, plus weekends in April and September, is surrounded by a national forest-park, with marked trails past oak trees hundreds of years old, beech groves and yews. There are also private stables a half-mile from the estate that offer riding.

The nearest village is Florencecourt, which is within walking distance of Rose Cottage. It has a business district consisting of a grocery store, in which a friendly dog will show you to the post office in the back. The city of Londonderry is about 90 minutes away, Donegal about an hour, making for two good day trips. We had things to do in both, mostly involving favorite old restaurants and stores.

Admittedly, it was stupid to have the run of an 18th-century estate and then dash out every morning in the car to do other things; however, that was the case. Usually, it was Enniskillen's fault. The 500-year-old castle there is now a dazzling military museum; the local professional theater was staging "Pygmalion," and the café called Johnston's has apple pie well worth forsaking an estate for. Late one afternoon we went to a livestock auction, which was unforgettable as entertainment (unlike "Pygmalion"): weathered farmers standing in a semicircle, all tweed coats and rubber boots, with a pair of nimble youths to choreograph the animals in and out of a muddy pit.

Beech Cottage

Leitrim is a rural county in the Republic of Ireland, which differs from Northern Ireland most obviously in that the roads are worse and the brogues less marked. Beech Cottage, located in the countryside near Dromahair, is a manor house completely tailored in ivy. It is also a busy equestrian farm that expanded into new barns about four years ago so that the original 19th-century stable could be refurbished into a row of four apartments. Little was done to the exterior, where cool stone walls are cheered up by bright red doors and the beginnings of another blanket of ivy.

Asking over the telephone for the most "historic" apartment, we were assigned to No. 4, which has an exposed stone wall on the interior. On the end of the stable, it overlooks the working barns and the show ring of the riding academy.

The first floor of No. 4 is a large, open combination kitchen and living room. There isn't a dining table, except for the breakfast bar that helps define the kitchen area, and so one makes oneself very much at home — dining off the coffee table in front of the television. The two bedrooms, on the second floor along with the bathroom, are small, but they have an airy, almost Nordic atmosphere, with pine furniture and retractable skylights.

Set back in a glade, Beech Cottage is off a main road leading in one direction to the well-kept village of Dromahair, and in the other to a pristine lake, Lough Gill, and the sea about 15 miles farther west. To stay in one of the apartments is to be part of a bustling establishment, with pets and people around and going about their business. By nightfall, though, the work is done and everyone goes home. For those who are at home in the stable, the quiet is that of the country at night.

On a Sunday, I asked if I could go down and say hello to the horses. "It's their day off." I was told. Guests can easily arrange to ride in the ring or cross-country, by the day or week, in lessons or on hacking time, but not on Sundays.

Bachelor's Walk

The Dublin apartment is in a large new building, called Bachelor's Walk Apartments, along the Liffey River at the Ha'penny Bridge. One of five rented on a short-term basis by Hilltop Court Business Services, it is on the ground floor, facing a mews that was lined by old garages when we stayed there (some have since been demolished, to make way for a hotel going up on the site).

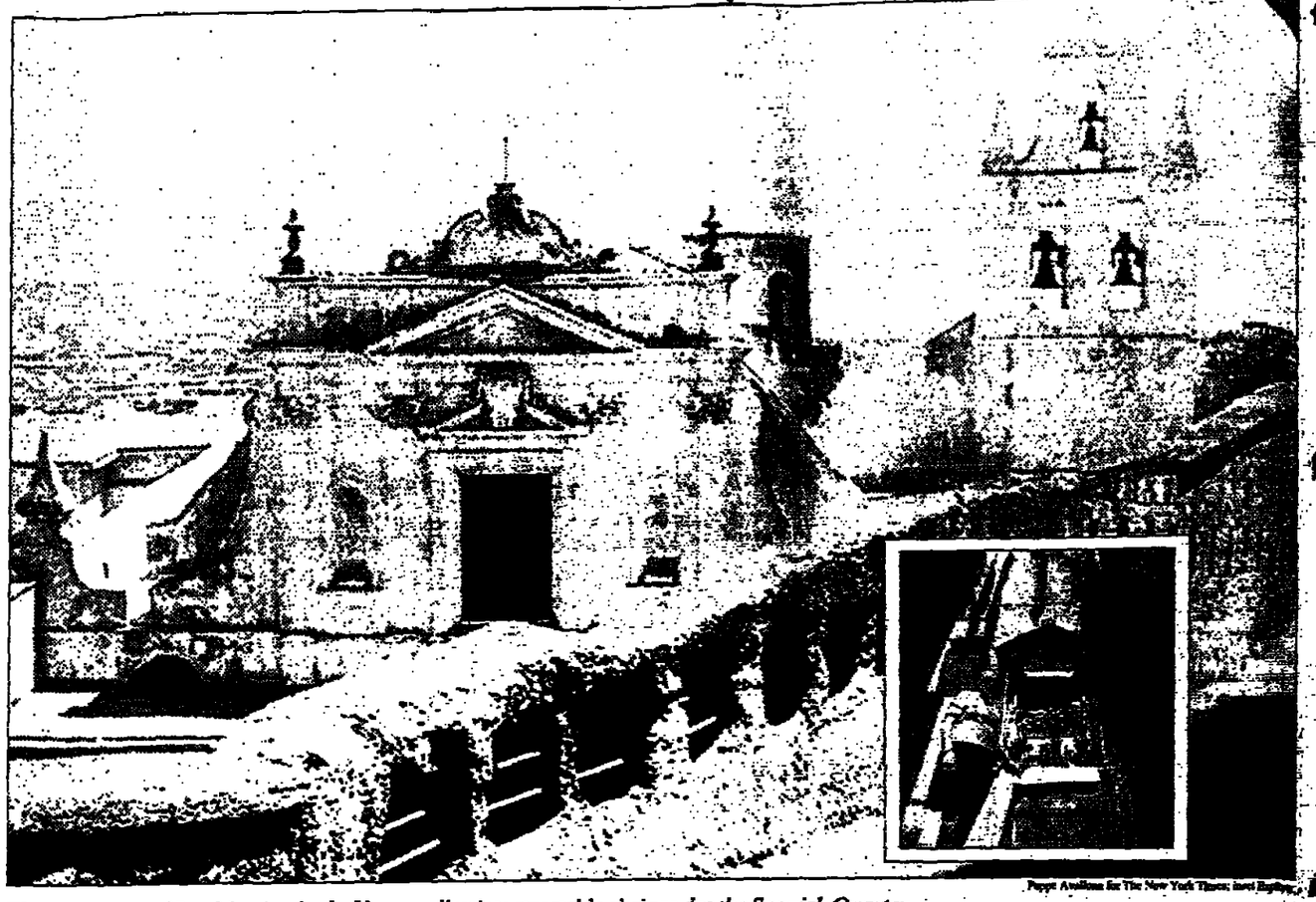
Contemporary in decor, and not especially Irish in character, the small flat has one bedroom, a living room that had a fold-out futon-couch during our stay (most units have sofa-beds now), a stand-up kitchen and one full bathroom. The furnishings are comparable to those in a midgrade hotel. However, the nice midgrade hotel (Buswells) where we had stayed the year before currently charges around $225 a night for a double room; the flat at Bachelor's Walk — equally comfortable, equally convenient — costs $92 a night or $385 for a week.

By the time we arrived at Bachelor's Walk, we had quite a little household in tow: half-open bottles of everything from Fairy Liquid soap to Beefeater's gin to make the place seem familiar.

Bachelor's Walk is truly in the center of Dublin. One side of the building overlooks the Liffey River, and the nearest cross street is O'Connell, the main drag in town. The farthest walk we took was a 45-minute hike home after dropping off the rental car. Everything else was within about 10 minutes' walk.

Dublin has changed into quite a hotshot city, one where you have to actually keep up with the latest. One night, after seeing an excellent play at a tiny amateur playhouse, we started to rouse ourselves to that obligation to get with it, thinking about the trendiest places of the moment to go for supper. I had a yen for leftover spaghetti, though, fried up in a pan, and served with wine imported from Dromahair. Luckily, I knew just where to get some.

J.M. Fenster, who writes about history and culture, and visits Ireland often, wrote this for The New York Times.



Peggy Avallone for The New York Times; inset Bigstock

The monastery of San Martino in the Vomero district: streetside shrines dot the Spanish Quarter.

Naples: Tale of Two Neighborhoods

By John Domini

NAPLES — *"Questa e Napoli,"* declares the waitress. With the city's trademark cynicism, more juice than rind, she says her trattoria hires only family because strangers entail taxes and paperwork. Blood is thicker, and cheaper. This is Naples.

Her neighborhood, however, looks little like the city tourists know. There is no cluster of medieval *palazzi* over Roman paving on a Greek plan. There's no laundry on public display. That Naples, the postcard Naples, isn't far — the Spanish Quarter, the ancient seaport at its crankiest, is just five minutes downhill by the funicular railway.

My trattoria, new and still without a name when I was there in May, is in the Vomero, home to the city's upper middle class. Around me stretch broad 19th-and 20th-century boulevards. After lunch, for my *digestivo*, I'll walk to Villa Floridiana, a spacious and airy park with sweeping views of the waterfront, the islands and the sea.

In the Spanish Quarter and the Vomero one encounters Naples at its extremes: the former long impoverished, its inhabitants often testing the borders of criminality, and the latter newly booming, its population solidly bourgeois. At times, the neighborhoods seem to share nothing but their hillside boundary.

The Spanish Quarter takes its name from the Spanish viceroys, rulers of the city for 200 years, beginning in 1504. Don Pedro de Toledo first laid out the thoroughfare still known as Via Toledo, now the neighborhood's downhill border, then developed the quarter as troop housing. The general population flooded in thereafter, but the layout retains a military grid. On the map it suggests a dollhouse checkerboard. On the street, it seems even smaller. Even if there were no foot traffic and construction work, if there weren't the believers pausing at streetside shrines and the children scampering after cats and dogs and hens, and the Vespas zipping everywhere, if mothers didn't sit out on their kitchen chairs keeping an eye on their babies and vendors didn't stand on every corner hawking cigarette lighters or lottery predictions, water or Kleenex or (from a hidden drawer) illegal tax-free cigarettes — even if it weren't for all this untrammeled life in the streets, the Quarter would offer no small physical challenge. Its east-west *vicoli* climb the slopes under the Vomero, and most of these alleyways turn into stairs. Its north-south parallels rise and fall only slightly less. And none of the buildings have elevators.

YET this aerobic clamor conveys unique charms. I can think of no other neighborhood in Europe that offers so close an approximation of medieval city experience, footbound and communal. Every street has its *bassi*, ground-floor apartments of two rooms or even one, and the inhabitants openly share their lives with passers-by. Hole-in-the-wall restaurants bear out the urban wisdom that cheap amenities mean good food.

Nor does any neighborhood this side of Granada possess such an Arabian feel. The Spanish arrived in Naples just after they'd driven out the Moors, and though the original three-story barracks have long since been built up, they retain the same Moorish details that marked the golden age of Andalusia. The two shopping streets, Pigna Secca and Emmanuele de Deo, present a carnival crush to rival any souk.

The ruling faith, of course, comes from Rome. On saints' days, young men vie for the honor of carrying the holy effigy, and every day the power of church icons is evident in the streetside shrines, many of which have been in place for 50 years or more. The figures of worship, usually a Madonna and child, may be composed of store-bought dolls or spangled with paste-on halos. But some settings are inlaid with Neapolitan marble, red or green. Shrines contain household knickknacks, photos of the recent dead, a syringe to symbolize release from addiction — bits and pieces of local life. Most sanctuaries hold fresh flowers, too. Nobody touches the coin offerings.

PROTECTING ITS OWN The quarter protects its own. One spectacular crucifix stands at the intersection of Via Concordia and Vico Colonne a Cariati, a crossing that is part stairway and part street with a stirring view of the lower blocks. Yet if a couple of the inhabitants of the *quartieri* choose to meet there, they will keep outsiders from knowing where they're headed by using a well-nigh unpronounceable slang for the site.

By Piazza Montecalvario, a homemade mural has lasted a dozen years. A celebration of the Napoli club's 1987 Italian professional soccer championship, the painting links the team's star, Diego Maradona, to two other local gods, the writer Eduardo De Filippo and the actor Toto. Likewise, the gangs here don't bother patrons of the Teatro Nuovo. The Teatro, on Via Montecalvario, is ordinary architecturally, but it has a proud history, having been in operation since 1724, 13 years longer than the San Carlo opera house. More than that, it provided early exposure for many young artists, including De Filippo, and still features groundbreaking work in theater or film.

But the kind of inner-city self-reliance that keeps the Teatro Nuovo from harm can also result in stunted horizons. Ten-year-olds can skip school and adults can grow to accept street gangs and purse snatchings as a part of Neapolitan life.

In the '90s, under the enlightened administration of Mayor Antonio Bassolino, Naples has at last begun to address these problems. In particular, workers have begun to take down *i tubi*, the jury-rigged scaffolding that has marred the quarter since the earthquake of 1980.

Now the area is noticeably emerging from its cage. The Spanish Quarter Association, a citizens' group, has been developed to work with children at risk, and blocks are even gentrifying a bit, as downtown professionals take advantage of the location. The quarter also now claims a gem of a hotel, the Toledo, where I had a comfortable, modern room with telephone, TV, desk and bathroom. Above the Teatro Nuovo, and roofed by a garden restaurant with small palms, lemon trees, cockatoos and tortoises, the Toledo is often the choice of visitors working in academics or the arts. In the Vomero, gentrification came with the territory. Only those with money could move up from downtown, particularly during the cholera outbreak of the 1880s. At that time, newcomers developed the neighborhood hub of Piazza Vanvitelli and its feeder boulevards.

Earlier, the hilltop had been home mostly to lemons and broccoli. Vomero is Italian for a hand-held plow, and peasants once worked perhaps the most beautiful farm terraces on earth there. Even now, streetside vistas can leave a visitor dumbstruck. The classic panorama of city, bay and volcano sweeps out beneath the piazza at the end of Via Tito Angelini 800 feet above the Spanish Quarter.

Across the street, from the Carthusian monastery of San Martino, is an even more spectacular view. San Martino, and the fortress Castel Sant'Elmo beside it, date from the 1320s; the church's splendid Baroque remodeling is by Giovanni Antonio Dosio and Cosimo Fanzago.

The complex includes, besides a museum, a painting of the descent from the cross that some claim is by Caravaggio (guidebooks say it's by Ribera) and a swirling, dramatic ceiling painting of the Judith story by Luca Giordano. Out in the cloister gardens, Fanzago's switchback stairways do their best to equal the stunning setting.

The Vomero's next stage of development occurred farther downhill, in and around the Villa Floridiana, which is actually a park, unwinding along spiral pathways around its eponymous central mansion, now a ceramics museum. A gift from the Bourbon Ferdinand I to his lover, the estate was finished in 1819, lavishly stocked with exotic plants, in particular camellias.

THE villa itself was a place of legendary sumptuousness. Countess Blessington (a writer and sharply observant friend to, among others, Lord Byron) said that the bath "would admit not only of bathing, but of swimming." Much of that finery is now gone, though Chinese vases and French tapestries still adorn the foyer. Most visitors, however, enjoy a different, more fragile extravagance: more than 6,000 ceramic works from all over the world, including feather-perfect Meissen miniatures and fine local majolica.

All in all, the Floridiana's park and museum offer a textbook case of the contrast that vivifies Italian cities. One emerges from roaring and stony man-made constriction into lush greenery, scrupulous artwork and inspiring vistas.

Already comfortable, the Vomero, too, has gotten better over the last few years. Like the Spanish Quarter, it has a new grass-roots organization dedicated to local amelioration. Recent successes include a park and pedestrian-only areas and a modern hotel, the Belvedere, built along Via Tito Angelini in such a way that every room looks out over the city and the bay.

My nameless trattoria, as it happens, was in the opposite sort of place: a heavy traffic zone without an overlook.

And though I was struck by what the waitress said, by the way Naples remains Naples, I couldn't force a connection between the two neighborhoods, other than my rickety table, which may well have come from down the hill. Yet a trip that includes both odd bedfellows, rich in contrasting flavors like my lunch of penne and octopus, hits the spot.

John Domini, a teacher in Portland, Oregon, who is working on a book about Naples, wrote this for The New York Times.

KIDS

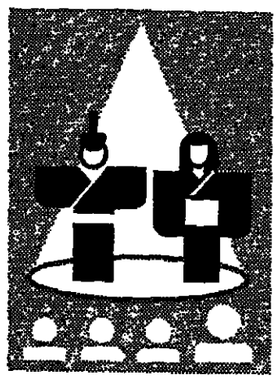
Japanese Theme Park Puts Ninja Spin on Edo Culture

By Miki Tanikawa

TOKYO — Children often make woeful travel partners when dragged to historical places. Visiting temples and shrines can prove an especially wearying experience for children who would rather play their favorite video games or take a ride on the Space Mountain at Tokyo DisneyLand. But some of the country's theme parks provide entertainment at once Japanese, culturally instructive and fun for children.

A few hours on the train to the northeast of Tokyo lands visitors at the hot-springs resort of Kinugawa, which is also famous for Nikko Edo Village.

Reproducing the old town of Edo, which thrived from the 17th to 19th century in what is now Tokyo, the village brings to life the charms of the culture and entertainment of the era. Across 50 hectares (124 acres), neat rows of stores and houses line the streets, a ferry drifts down a flowing river, and kimono-clad women and sword-bearing samurai pass by.



Of the 22 attractions and shows staged daily, nothing captivates children more than the ninja spectacles. In Ninja-karasuyashyiki (trick-house), ninjas engage in battle in a gimmick-filled house. Enemies attack from unexpected places, combatants reveal secret weapons, and a retreating ninja disappears through a hidden staircase that rises into the ceiling. Meanwhile, an aerial battle between two ninja groups erupts overhead. The spectators walk up a road through cedar woods as ninja warriors chase one another in a lively combat that accompanies provocative exchanges of words. The weapons, costumes, and the techniques all spring from the medieval period when the art of ninjutsu flourished as different schools of ninja vied for supremacy.

Ninja gained force at the beginning of the 13th century when rival clans of samurai made use of these secret agents to spy out, assassinate or carry out commando raids against enemies.

While ninja and the Edo period are only loosely connected if at all, Nikko Edo Village successfully plays on the theme by enticing fans to a broad array of ninja-related souvenirs that range from daggers, star-shaped throwing knives, brass knuckles and bamboo staves to more typical souvenirs such as mug cups, bags, and T-shirts bearing cartooned ninja characters. For entertainment that is more unambiguously Edo, Nihon Dento Geino Gekijo presents a visually pleasurable exhibition of Mizu-gei or water magic. Against the fine tunes of Japanese harp music, water spurts out from unexpected places in this show performed by women dressed in classic kimonos.

Other Attractions

Other pageants include the appearance on the street of the famous Mito-komon, down-to-earth brother of the first shogun in the Edo period, a 3-D movie featuring battles between warring clans in Medieval Japan and the Edo-era jailhouse exhibiting methods employed by the authorities to coerce confession from criminals.

Between performances, actors from all of the shows and attractions will pose for photos with visitors.

Because of its proximity to Tokyo, Nikko Edo Village is within easy reach for visitors staying there. For those who want to stay in this spa resort, however, Asaya Hotel is among the largest lodgings with a full-range of services equivalent to international hotels in major Japanese cities. At the Asaya Hotel, rooms start at 13,000 yen (about $109) for adults and 9,100 for children. Tel: 81-288-77-11-11.

On the other hand, Ojika-en caters to those seeking a genuinely Japanese ambience. The traditional inn lodges guests in detached units, each overlooking a picturesque Japanese garden. Room rates start at 20,000 yen for adults, half-price for children. Tel: 81-288-77-1641; fax: 81-288-77-2045. Telephones may not be answered in English but faxes usually are.

Admission for Nikko Edo Village (rides and attractions included) is 5,500 yen (about $46) for adults and 2,500 for children up to 12 years old. Tel: 81-288-77-17-77.

Meanwhile, visitors to Kyoto can visit Toei Movieland, a movie studio-cum-theme park. While recreating city landscapes of the Edo era like Nikko Edo Village, it also serves as the site for many Japanese period movies. As cameras roll, spectators can see battles or scenes of romance.

Visitors can also step back 300 years by wearing Edo-style costume to pose for a photograph or tour the park. At the Make-Over House, professionals help tourists dress up, apply make-up and don a wig.

Admission fees for Movieland in Kyoto are 2,100 yen for adults and 900 for children up to 12 years old. Tel: 81-75-864-7716.

Miki Tanikawa is a journalist based in Tokyo.

THE FREQUENT TRAVELER

Getting a Grip on the Weather

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

MOST business travelers have an urban (if not urbane) attitude towards the weather. You're indoors most of the time sheltered from the elements in a sub-climatic world of air-conditioned offices, airport lounges and hotels. News of heavy rain means not being able to get a taxi, or getting drenched sprinting to the subway. Snowing in New York? Well as long as you can land and get to the meeting.

You've taken the usual precautions: stowing a compact umbrella to ensure that it doesn't rain or a heavy coat if you're hoping for warm weather. You may glance at, say, the European weather map in the paper, try to figure out the symbols for overcast or sunny intervals; is where you're going on a cold front, a warm front or an occluded front? Is high pressure good news and low pressure bad news? Or is it the other way round?

Traveling between North America, Europe or Asia, you may check with the CNN regional forecast. Or simply call someone at the other end before you leave. "It's heavy rain here in Hong Kong and the number three typhoon signal has been hoisted so I guess we're in for a few rainy days ahead. What's the weather like in Antibes?"

CLOUDY FORECASTS Weather forecasts often seem as indeterminate as executive horoscopes. Sometimes, it's hard to tell the difference. "The new moon in Aries on Monday brings the chance to launch a plan or project. But money problems may raise doubts in your mind about someone's sincerity and integrity." "A frontal system on Monday will bring cloud and rain to western Norway, but this will tend to a mix of sunshine and showers as it moves across Scandinavia." Yes, but is it going to rain tomorrow afternoon in Trondheim?

Unless you're a sailor, pilot, mountaineer or skier, with access to local weather forecasts, it's hard to get hard news about local weather. You need the meteorological equivalent of a large-scale map. What we need is to be able to call up one of these slick weather forecasters you see on the TV and ask "Yes, but what's it going to be like where I'm going?"

Help may partially be at hand in the form of MetCall Direct, a new service offered by The Met. Office in Britain, which allows travelers around the world to speak to a live forecaster "about the weather as it affects you."

MetCall Direct is limited now to marine forecasting. But the ideas is to extend the service to areas such as aviation and worldwide weather.

I checked out MetCall on (44-374) 555-888 to seek advice on a hypothetical sailing trip from Antibes across the Mediterranean to Corsica, down the west coast and through the Straits of Bonifacio to the Costa Smeralda on the northeast coast of Sardinia. Nice trip if you can afford it.

A computer voice took me through the menu (including a faxback option) and after entering my credit card details on the key-pad, I was put through to a live forecaster at the Southampton Weather Center in England. I spent at least 15 minutes on the phone for a flat fee of £15 ($24).

SMOOTH GOING "What size is your boat?" "Er, 100 feet." "You've got power?" "Yes." "Well you can expect a smooth crossing over — the weather's going to continue sunny on the French coast for the next seven days, but you're going to hit a good force four increasing with heavy seas down the west coast of Corsica. And you're looking at a northeasterly force seven between the islands with seas of up to three meters. I suggest you call us again when you arrive in Corsica." Money well spent if I were headed that way.

Jim Ephraums, information services group manager at The Met. Office in London, says: "We're setting up systems which travelers can access from abroad. The technology where you can cue in your credit card and get through to a live forecaster is actually quite sophisticated. The marine service we offer is a pilot and we expect to move soon into other areas. The idea is to provide a team of live forecasters able to look at all angles of the weather — local forecasts, weather over the Atlantic. It's all do-able.

"I just had a call from a photographer on a film shoot down in Hastings. He wanted a detailed weather forecast because he'd relied on the TV forecast the night before and had just wasted 500 quid messing around in the rain. We could offer the technology to business travelers who've got flights to talk to a real forecaster. This is just a taste of what we can do in the future."

THE Met. Office, along with the Royal Mail, is one of the few British public services yet to privatized. Its logo is a crown above a weathercock. And weather reports carry the stern injunction: Crown Copyright. It offers a raft of phone and faxback services in Britain — MetFax regional five-day forecasts; Hurricane Line; international city forecasts, and special aviation and maritime forecasts.

MetWeb is a service on the Internet providing five-day international, aviation and marine forecasts, along with pressure charts, satellite images and regional weather reports, including world weather "bullet points" on "severe weather events." Example: "Monday 15 September 1997: There's still plenty of rainfall activity over India, the city of Patna in Bihar province having received 158 mm from thunderstorms within the 24 hours to 0000 GMT today, around three-quarters of the September average of 218 mm."

Access to MetWeb is through an electronic ticketing system. You buy books of electronic tickets with your credit card on a phone line. A book of 20 tickets with your own ID costs £10. One ticket lets you browse the site for 30 minutes. Current weather reports are free but each five-day regional forecast costs one ticket. You can top up your book of tickets on-line without exposing your credit card details on the Internet.

"We're planning next spring to launch a mobile phone service whereby traveler with a GSM phone can receive short message forecasts on the display of their phones," Ephraums says. "You are limited to 160 characters at a time under the SMS system; but you can store several messages in the memory. Say you are traveling to several cities across Europe. We could arrange to send you a forecast, every day, or twice a day, at points along your itinerary, giving you an idea of what to expect en route."

LOOK AT THE BASIC DATA

Ephraums' advice to travelers is first to look at basic climatic data on what weather you might expect for that particular time of year; then check the free weather forecasts on teletext and in newspapers. "Use the Web. If it's going to be fine, there's nothing to worry about; if it says it's going to be bad weather or raining, that's the point where you need more detail and talk to a live forecaster. Assimilate all the other information first.

"Where we could claim to be unique is in developing a wide range of specialist services in English. Language would be our selling point. The French and the Germans have very sophisticated weather organizations, but they haven't been in the game as long as we have in offering a range of consumer services — although the French have an excellent telephone weather service. We have a high regard for the newly privatized New Zealand Met. Office (www.co.nz). The biggest weather market is the States which is mainly advertising-based and therefore free with quite a few websites. Weather Channel (www.weather.com) is one of the best. American sites tend to be very well designed with good graphics and a large number of locations."

Sophie Delorme

GOOD TRAVEL DEALS

GETTING THERE

AIR NEW ZEALAND/ ANSETT AUSTRALIA/ SINGAPORE AIRLINES	Asia	Three new types of fare available: Around-the-world fare that allows travel of up to 45,000 kilometers to destinations in Europe, North America, Asia, Australia and New Zealand costs from 19,830 Hong Kong dollars ($2,560); a circle-Pacific fare that allows travel of up to 24,000 kilometers from the Southwest Pacific to the west coast of North America from 20,220 Hong Kong dollars, and a circle-Asia fare from 11,670 Hong Kong dollars for up to 35,200 kilometers around Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.
BRITISH AIRWAYS	Worldwide	New around-the-world fare with South Pacific routing priced from £973 ($1,550) in economy, £3,499 in business class and £5,049 in first; participating airlines: Qantas, American Airlines and Canadian Airlines.
GULF AIR	Britain to Middle East	Four promotion offers for travel from London-Heathrow to Doha, Abu Djabi, Bahrain or Muscat: automatic upgrade to next class when you pay the full economy or business-class fare; pay the full one-way in economy, business or first class for a free return leg; two-for-one in economy, business or first class; special round-trip economy fares from £399 ($640). For travel until Dec. 11.
JAPAN AIRLINES	Japan	"Welcome to Japan" fares allow JAL passengers visiting Japan from overseas to save at least 50 percent on up to five domestic flights (reservations must be made before leaving home). Residents of Japan are allowed 50 percent off regular domestic fares when connecting with an international JAL (or Japan Asia Airways) flight on a round-trip itinerary. For travel from Oct. 20.
LAUDA AIR	Asia to Europe	Travelers to Europe can now buy an airpass that allows 2 to 10 flights around Europe via Lauda Air's Vienna hub. Each coupon costs $120 and there are no minimum- or maximum-stay conditions.
UNITED AIRLINES	Britain to India	Twenty-five percent off round-trip fares in first or business class from London to Delhi saving £1,208 and £655 ($1,930 and $1,050), respectively. For travel until Nov. 30.
VIRGIN ATLANTIC	Britain to United States	"MegaSaver" round-trip fares from Heathrow to New York, Washington, Boston from £178 ($285); Heathrow-Miami, £278; Heathrow-Los Angeles, San Francisco, £298. Certain conditions apply. You must book before Oct. 2.

WHERE TO STAY

CAPITAL HOTEL	Beijing	"Club Floor" package for $140 per night single or double includes buffet breakfast; evening cocktails; use of fitness center; late checkout; 10 percent discount on food and beverages, laundry and business center. Until Dec. 31.
HYATT REGENCY PIER SIXTY-SIX	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	"Bed and Breakfast" package for $169 per night includes "deluxe" room and breakfast for two. Until Dec. 24.
HYATT REGENCY	Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris	"Park and Travel" package for 550 francs ($92) a night for two includes Continental breakfast, 15 days' parking and airport shuttle. Until Dec. 31.
MARRIOTT	Bangkok	Introductory rates from 4,850 baht ($135) a night for a "deluxe-king" room.
RADISSON-SAS PORTMAN HOTEL	London	"Superior Business Class" double for £160 ($256) includes in-room fax and modem points; buffet breakfast; use of fitness center; double Eurobonus miles; 10 percent off restaurant bills. Until March 1.
SHERATON	Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam	Half-price room rate of 250 guilders ($125) during opening period. Until Oct. 31.

Although the IHT carefully checks these offers, please be forewarned that some travel agents may be unaware of them, or unable to book them.

MOVIE GUIDE

MOUTH TO MOUTH

Directed by Manuel Gomez Pereira: Spain.

Although the comic possibilities of phone sex have long since been exhausted, the Spanish farce "Mouth to Mouth" still gives this well-worn topic a try. The main character is an aspiring actor who finds that auditioning for roles is no less humiliating than being paid to talk dirty to strangers, and that the phone job may actually be the more interesting professional challenge. So Victor (Javier Bardem) throws himself into this new form of acting exercise. Manuel Gomez Pereira's film strives for escapism in its own uneasy way, mixing soft-core seduction with giddy pratfalls. For instance, there is a zipper mishap to interrupt one of several strained heavy-breathing episodes. When elaborate plot complications seem ready to raise the film to a fever pitch it never reaches one, despite the strenuous efforts of Bardem and the rest of the cast. Events escalate once Victor, who took the phone sex job without expecting to meet Ms. Right, finds himself falling for a femme fatale named Amanda (Aitana Sanchez-Gijon), who is one of his elusive clients.

(Janet Maslin)

IN AND OUT

Directed by Frank Oz: U.S.

Kevin Kline resisting an overpowering impulse to shake his booty to the Village People is one of the many hilarious gags in "In & Out." This manly show of resistance is an attempt to prove to himself that he's not gay. But after setting up its rather cheeky premise — is Kline, an effeminate Midwest English teacher, homosexual or not? — the movie gradually loses steam. And despite its attempts to avoid preachiness, the movie presents us with good, decent folk from Indiana learning that, goshdurnit, gays are human too. Kline is Howard Brackett, a rather swishy high-school teacher in Greenleaf, Indiana, who inspires his students with poetry and literature. Things are looking up. He's popular with his students. He's about to marry his longtime fiancée, Emily (Joan Cusack). And Cameron (Matt Dillon), a former pupil-turned-professional-actor, is up for an Academy Award. The good news: On national television,

"Mouth to Mouth" scene.

Cameron wins the Oscar and acknowledges Howard as a major influence. The bad news: He concludes the tribute with these words: "And he's gay." Howard and the little town of Greenleaf fall into stunned silence. Howard's first order of business is to assure his fiancée, his parents and the sudden invasion of TV journalists that he's a heterosexual, thank you very much. But Howard's problems aren't nearly over, as his students sheepishly inform him. He's going to have to cure that limp-wristedness. Here's where Kline displays his best moments. Holing himself up at home, he slips in a cassette tape that purports to test for homosexuality. Before he directed people, Frank Oz directed Muppets. He seems to be coming along fine with his own species — but not fast enough.

(Desson Howe)

A THOUSAND ACRES

Directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse; U.S.

Shakespeare doesn't play in Peoria, at least not in the screen adaptation of "A Thousand Acres" by Jane Smiley. Or even in Iowa, which is no closer to home for "King Lear." That was the underlying inspiration for Smiley's literary experiment. Though Michelle Pfeiffer delivers impressively cold fury as the story's version of Regan (now an embittered breast cancer patient called Rose), and Jessica Lange works hard to breathe life into its Goneril (called Ginny), the film remains stilted and unconvincing. The story's latter sections are so abrupt and emotionless that they seem to have been freeze-dried. The film plays as a stilted, semi-articulate showcase for its sisterly stars. *(Janet Maslin)*

ARTS GUIDE

AUSTRIA

VIENNA

Kunsthistorisches Museum, tel: (1) 525-24403, closed Mondays. To Jan. 18: "Land der Bible." Exhibits connected with events or persons described in the Bible. The exhibition also presents models of royal residences in Ur, Nineveh, Babylon and Jerusalem.

BRITAIN

LONDON

Barbican Art Gallery, tel: (171) 638-8891, open daily. To Dec. 14: "James Ensor." The exhibition traces the Belgian Expressionist artist's development, taking the late 1880s as a turning point, when the artist produced visionary landscapes and an expressionism laced with religious themes. Fascinated by the fantastic and the macabre, Ensor used the carnival theme as a vehicle for his criticism of Belgian society and as an expression of his preoccupation with death.

CANADA

MONTREAL

Museum of Fine Arts, tel: (514) 285-1600, closed Mondays. To Jan. 11: "George Segal." Features 70 works created between 1957 and 1997 by the American artist. A founder of Pop Art in the early 1960s, Segal's presentation of ordinary people in a defined urban environment set him apart. Apart from the white plaster figures of the 1960s, the exhibition brings together pastels, drawings and recent still-lifes. The exhibition will travel to Washington.

FRANCE

PARIS

Musee Cernuschi, tel: 01-45-63-50-75, closed Mondays and holidays. To Jan. 4: "Pierres d'Immortalite." More than 100 Chinese jade pieces dating back to the 15th century B.C.

GERMANY

MUNICH

Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung, tel: (89) 22-44-12, open daily. To Jan. 11: "Cobra." Documents the work of the international art group whose members tried to revive Expressionism. Founded in 1948, the group dissolved in 1951. The exhibition brings together 130 works by Alechinsky, Appel, Corneille, Jorn and Constant.

ITALY

FLORENCE

Palazzo Pitti, tel: (55) 213-440, closed Mondays. To Jan. 6: "The Magnificence of the Medici Court." Art in Florence in the late 16th century under the reigns of Francesco I and Ferdinando I. Works on loan from Germany demonstrate the commercial and artistic exchanges that took place between the Medici court and the German states. The exhibition also features instruments showing the experimental and scientific interests of the period: astrolabes, compasses, clocks and armillary spheres.

SPAIN

BARCELONA

Centre de Cultura Contemporania, tel: (3) 412-0781, closed Mondays. To Jan. 1996: "Barcelona — Madrid, 1898-1997." Documents the artistic and cultural relationship between the two cities from 1890 to the present time.

Museu d'Art Contemporani, tel: (93) 412-08-10, closed Mondays. To Jan. 6: "The Last Gaze: Self-Portraits (from Bonnard to Bacon)." Fifteen self-portraits by Picasso, Matisse, Bacon and Beckmann, among others.

UNITED STATES

NEW YORK

Metropolitan Museum of Art, tel: (212) 570-3791, closed Mondays. To Jan. 11: "The Private Collection of Edgar Degas." Documents Degas' activities as a collector. Works by Ingres and Delacroix are contrasted with works by Cezanne, van Gogh and Gauguin, and Degas's obsession for Manet's art is reflected in the set of graphic works and paintings that he bought.

New York Public Library, tel: (212) 869-8089, closed Sundays. To Jan. 3: "Tobacco Leaves: Selections from the Collection of George Arents, Jr." The industrialist collected printed works and art objects related to tobacco. Includes works on paper, decorative objects, bronzes and paintings. Also, "Dry Drunk: The Culture of Tobacco in 17th- and 18th-Century Europe." Books and prints trace the growth of tobacco use in Europe.

CLOSING SOON

Sept. 28: "L'Art d'Imiter: Falsifications, Manipulations, Pastiches." **Musee d'Art et d'Histoire, Geneva.**

Sept. 28: "Masterpieces From the Pierpont Morgan Library." **High Museum of Art, Atlanta.**

Sept. 28: "Seurat and the Bathers". **The National Gallery, London.**

Sept. 29: "L'Orgueil." **Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.**

Sept. 29: "Jean-Michel Basquiat: Oeuvres sur Papier." **Fondation Dina Vierny, Paris.**

Sept. 29: "Fernand Leger." **Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.**

Sept. 30: "Phillip King." **Forte di Belvedere, Florence.**

Sept. 30: "Da Padovanino a Tiepolo." **Museo Civico, Padua.**

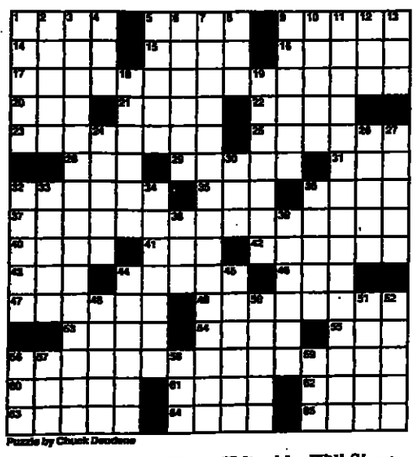
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Andean shrub
5 —— Sanctorum
9 Crayola color
14 Caspian Sea feeder
15 1968 Lennon-McCartney tune
16 "Hold your tongue!"
17 Refugee's request
20 "Murder, ——" (1960 film)
21 Author Robert —— Butler
22 Jazz trumpeter Baker
23 Skeptics
25 City on the Po
28 Fate
29 National Gallery ——
31 Slicker
32 Like fraudulent accidents
36 Milk source
38 Cartoonist Walker
37 Timber or water, for instance
40 Some train cargoes
41 "Undoubtedly"
42 Like the risk to bet on, maybe
43 "What a ——!" (beach comment)
44 Reno game
46 "Chuang Tzu" principle
47 Prefix with sphere
49 Infamous pen
53 Side in a 1980's war
54 Go bad
55 Chemical suffix
56 Modern air munition
60 Movie scorer Straus
61 Beclouds, with "up"
62 Controversial ripener
63 Verbose
64 Change machine fill
65 Rowlands of "Light of Day"

DOWN

1 One usually seen taking a bow
2 Town near Bangor
3 They're deemed worth taking
4 The People's Champ
5 Quick
6 Chicago suburb
7 Commuter hub
8 Completely
9 Gist
10 Industrialist Guggenheim
11 Babe Ruth, in 1914
12 French crown
13 "The One I Love" group
18 Barely walk
19 Taylor or Hayes, e.g.
24 Counterfeit
26 Busters
27 Chamber group, perhaps
30 Knock out, so to speak
32 Brahmins
33 Place to see a hanged man, e.g.
34 Dawn-till-dusk
35 Marshal under Napoleon
38 Roarer
39 —— about (publicly visible)
44 Without a cover at night
45 Gunk
49 Expenses
50 Garnish leaf
51 Pitcher, of a sort
52 Kind of crossing
58 Part of a trunk
57 —— precaution
58 Subject of a grainy picture?
59 Nab



Puzzle by Chuck Deodene

© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

Solution to Puzzle of Sept. 25

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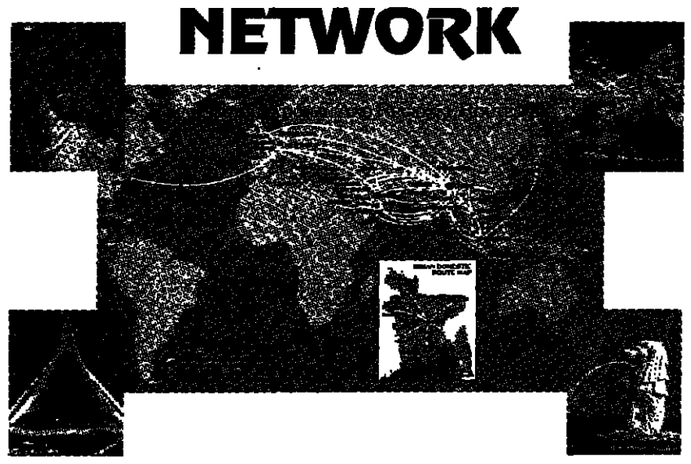

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Travelers Chief Aims For 'Unparalleled' Firm

By Leslie Eaton
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Sanford Weill can hardly contain himself. With most of his one-time peers on Wall Street having burned out or been booted out, Mr. Weill, 64, has scored a coup for Travelers Group Inc., the company he built from other people's castoffs. He has bought Salomon Brothers Inc., a firm known as the biggest, baddest bond trader on the Street.

And Mr. Weill, who a decade ago was written off as a has-been, is clearly filled with glee. "He's having the time of his life," said James Dimon, his second-in-command for 15 years and the chief executive of Smith Barney Holdings Inc., Travelers' brokerage firm.

Mr. Weill is grinning as he takes on a challenge that has brought other Wall Street powerhouses to grief — building a financial-services firm that can do everything from advising China on billion-dollar deals to selling mutual funds to amateur investors in Cincinnati.

He is doing it by trying to swallow a firm with a troubled past and a high-testosterone culture that has resisted even Warren Buffett's efforts to tame it.

The Salomon deal is the culmination of a lifelong dream, he said, to build

WALL STREET WATCH

what he calls "a great financial-services company without parallel."

If that means coping with the outsized egos — and salaries — that characterize Salomon, well, "I have experience with diverse cultures and getting people to work together," he said.

From an early age in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, Mr. Weill was aggressive and energetic.

"He was a member of the Junior Davis Cup Team, and he's been playing aggressive ball ever since," said Michael Lipper, president of Lipper Analytical Services Inc., who has known Mr. Weill for decades.

At the age of 27, after just five years as a stockbroker, Mr. Weill opened his own firm with some friends, who used every penny they had to buy a seat on the stock exchange, said Roger Berlind, now a Broadway producer. "We started out working around the clock," Mr. Berlind said, "and Sandy's still doing that, from everything I hear."

Through the stock-market boom of the 1960s and the protracted market bust of the 1970s, Mr. Weill began buying other brokerage firms, assembling the huge network of stockbrokers that became Shearson Loeb Rhoades. He was famous for negotiating hard bargains and for inspiring his work force while slashing costs.

But in 1981, he made a deal that would lead to disaster for him. He sold Shearson to American Express Co., the credit-card giant. He had hoped, he says now, to "go beyond Wall Street to build a great American institution." But he and James Robinson III, the chairman of American Express, could not work out their differences; in 1985, Mr. Weill became unemployed.

He was not alone, however; he took his assistant, the young Mr. Dimon, now 41. Despite a reputation for ruthlessness, Mr. Weill also is known for his loyalty and surrounds himself with old associates from Shearson and elsewhere.

In 1986, after a failed effort to buy Bank of America, he recognized the value of a troubled concern called Commercial Credit Co., a consumer-loan company that belonged to Control Data Systems Inc. In November of that year, Control Data sold most of Commercial Credit to the public, and Mr. Weill took the reins; a year later, he bought the company himself.

In 1988, Mr. Weill bought Primerica, the parent of Smith Barney, which had been bleeding red ink in the wake of the stock-market collapse of 1987.

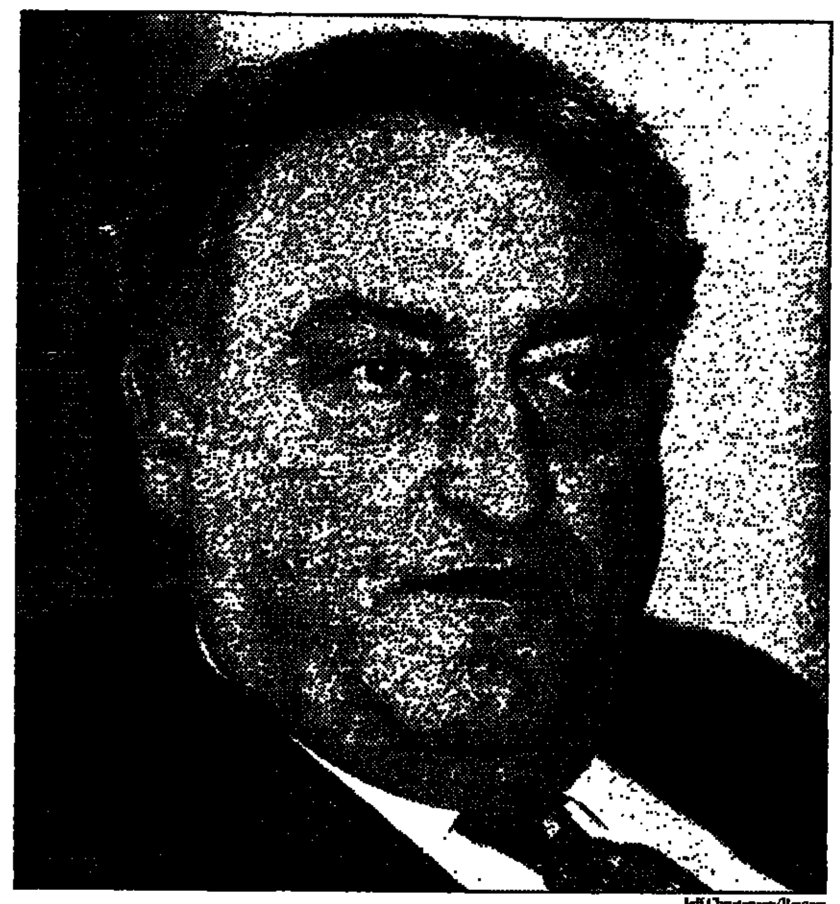
The next year, he snapped up the small network of retail brokerage outlets that had belonged to Drexel Burnham Lambert, the junk-bond house that was under pressure from regulators.

In 1992, he began to buy Travelers, which had been plagued by bad real-estate investments, and in 1993, he bought Shearson from American Express for $1.2 billion, which was considered a bargain.

Buying Salomon is an effort to beef up Smith Barney's investment-banking business and to establish a global presence for a firm that is little known outside the United States.

Tarred with a trading scandal several years ago and the defections of some important bond traders, Salomon has been searching for a buyer and comes relatively cheap, or so Mr. Weill seems to think.

"This is not a crazy deal," he said.


Jeff Christensen/Reuters
Sanford Weill of Travelers Group, which bought Salomon Brothers Inc.

EU Concedes Defeat in Banana War

It Agrees With WTO That Import Policies Broke Rules on Trade

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GENEVA — Conceding defeat in the so-called banana wars, the European Union on Thursday accepted a World Trade Organization finding that the Union's banana-import policies broke rules on free trade and should be changed.

The trade group's Dispute Settlement Body on Thursday rejected an appeal by the EU after it lost the case, which was brought by the United States with the backing of several South American nations.

A panel of experts decided in April that EU banana regulations unfairly favored Africa, Caribbean and Pacific nations — many of them former European colonies — at the expense of banana-exporting countries in Latin America.

"The European Community has accepted the verdict of the panel and appeal body in the case related to its banana import regime, and has therefore joined with other members in the formal adoption of these reports by the WTO," an EC statement said.

Roderick Abbott, an EU envoy, told the Dispute Settlement Body that Brussels would "give a first indication of its intentions" on implementing the findings within 30 days, an official statement said.

But trade sources quoted Mr. Abbott as saying that Brussels was "deeply concerned about the negative economic, political and social consequences" of aspects of the findings for former European colonies largely dependent on banana exports.

And the envoy of St. Lucia in the Caribbean, where the fruit provides almost the only source of foreign revenue, said that once the ruling was implemented producers in the region would not be able to sell at a price that covered their costs.

The case was brought to the WTO by the United States after U.S. banana marketing companies complained they were losing business because of advantages enjoyed by EU importers.

Washington asserted that it was not attacking the small farmers of the Caribbean, who get preferential treatment under the EU's Lome Convention agreements, which mainly covers one-time British- and French-ruled territories.

The U.S. complaint was backed by Ecuador — the world's largest banana producer — Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, where production costs on large plantations are much lower than those of the mainly small farmers in the Caribbean.

Several former British colonies, including Jamaica, have warned that the action could backfire on the United States by forcing small producers to switch to coca cultivation, which could swamp the United States with cocaine.

The EU's 15 member states, which differ strongly on the banana policy, have already opened informal talks on how the ruling might be implemented.

The German economics minister, Guenter Rexrodt — whose country has long sought a change in the EU rules — said Thursday that Brussels must implement the findings.

The United States says it wants full compliance with the panel's conclusion and will not accept compensation for lost trade — one of the possible solutions under WTO regulations.

The rules provide for implementation "within a reasonable period of time," which trade diplomats said is widely accepted to be a maximum of 15 months.

Trade diplomats said Brussels, which has championed the WTO as a forum for resolving trade disputes, had little choice but to go along with the panel ruling if it wished to avoid undermining the organization's authority.

The EU trade commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, argued in a newspaper article this month that as the price of membership Brussels had to accept WTO findings whether it liked them or not.

The EU itself has made wide use of the WTO dispute settlement procedure, which Sir Leon said had helped ensure that the United States, the world's biggest trade power, also played by the rules.

(AFP, Reuters)

Glitter Fades as Sales in Asia Slow

By Jennifer Steinhauer
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In the slick new advertising campaign for the fall line of Gucci apparel, there is nary an Asian face among the models seen frolicking in various stages of undress.

But it was the Asian customer, and her powerful spending ability, that helped send Gucci Group's stock flying last year — and her pullback in spending is what has led to its recent fall.

The company's stock traded in the United States was at $46.75 late Thursday, down 62.5 cents, having tumbled 18 percent Wednesday after Gucci announced earnings that fell short of analysts' expectations and said that sales for the rest of the year would be sluggish because of a slowdown in the Japanese market. Other companies that specialize in luxury goods have also felt the effect of cooling Asian consumer demand.

On Tuesday, LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton said that its first-half profit rose 10 percent, to 1.77 billion French francs ($297.4 million) from 1.54 billion francs a year earlier, but that its cognac and spirits business fell almost 20 percent, and analysts said that the rest of the year looked grim in Asia.

[The jewelry manufacturer Bulgari, which gets around 30 percent of its sales from Asia, reported a 34 percent increase in first-half revenue, to 24.4 billion lire ($14.1 million), on a 27 percent increase in sales, to 237.1 billion lire.

[Bulgari's chief executive, Francesco Trapani, told the International Herald Tribune that although sales growth may have slowed in parts of Asia, the company's geographical balance had largely protected it from any regional declines. He also reported a 24 percent increase in sales in Japan, largely on jewelry and watches.]

Asian consumers, principally Japanese ones, account for about 45 percent of sales of luxury goods, primarily leather items and shoes.

Now, a variety of factors is keeping Asian shoppers at home.

Japan's economy is in a deep slump, in part because of a consumer tax increase in April.

The yen has fallen against the dollar, and the currencies of a number of Southeast Asian countries have weakened sharply in the past several months. That increases the amount of local currency that is needed to buy foreign goods.

As a result, companies such as Gucci and LVMH have watched sales of

Analysts say the rest of the year looks grim for luxury-goods makers.

trendy shoes, cognacs and silk scarves taper off. For example, in its most recent quarter, cognac profits fell 19 percent at LVMH because of a 20 percent decrease in Japanese shipments. Perfume sales have declined, and analysts say that its recent acquisition of DFS Group Ltd., which sells perfumes in duty-free shops, contributed to the problem as sales fell 50 percent in the first half of the year.

On Wednesday, four Paris brokerage firms cut their recommendations on LVMH and at least two U.S. ones did so with Gucci.

"The dominating factor is that high interest rates have forced these companies into taking a much more conservative position," said Ron Leven, currency strategist at J.P. Morgan in New York.

"In terms of looking at these companies' performance, we don't think these situations are going to turn around quickly." The hammering was bitter for Gucci, which has been a darling of Wall Street since its initial public offering in late 1995 at $22 a share.

"This is a well-run company that did not disappoint until today," said Josephine Esquivel, an analyst at Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter Discover & Co., who downgraded the stock Wednesday to neutral from a strong buy. "I am not sure we have an easy answer."

Makers of luxury goods have kept their eyes firmly on the emerging markets in Asia. They have hoped to tap into a new consumer base whose pockets are full of fresh open-market capital and whose heads are full of images of advertisements for Western products that suggest a life of wealth, sex and status that can be had through their use.

In an interview, Bernard Arnault, the chairman of LVMH, said the Pacific Rim was where he expected to get the most growth from some of his recent acquisitions, including a luxury perfume chain. But as lucrative as those markets can be, so can they be risky.

An economic crisis in Thailand has hit its currency hard, and the currencies of Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia have suffered as well.

The problems in Japan do not help matters. Weak consumer spending has hurt the economy — gross domestic product contracted at an annual rate of 11.2 percent in this year's second quarter — and the yen has fallen.

Domenico De Sole, the chief executive of Gucci, was distressed during a telephone interview Wednesday, arguing that the market had unfairly punished his company for what he believed was a short-term problem.

"We are still up 29 percent in profits," he said. "We still are one of the most profitable companies in the world."

Salomon's Savior Is Cashing In On Acquisition by Travelers

By Jonathan Fuerbringer
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Salomon Brothers Inc. is not Warren Buffett's best deal, if it is measured against his own standards.

But in the sale Wednesday of Salomon Inc. to Travelers Group, the billionaire has done well by the standards of many investors, especially considering the damage done to Salomon in its Treasury trading scandal in 1991.

Mr. Buffett, the vaunted Omaha investor, has made killings in stocks from Coca-Cola Co. to Capital Cities/ABC. His average performance over the last two decades has been better than what he appears to have made so far on Salomon, where he took a stake and briefly a management role after the scandal.

Still, his 16.5 percent compound annual return on the remaining $420 million of his initial $700 million investment in Salomon surpasses the 14.8 percent return for the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index over the same period.

The Salomon stock that he has since obtained at an average $45 a share gives him a potential gain of 69 percent, based on Travelers' closing price Thursday of $76.25, unchanged. That's not bad, even if the S&P index has gone up more.

Mr. Buffett's hands-on management after the scandal and his credibility with federal regulators were crucial to saving Salomon and making it an attractive takeover target, many analysts say. Mr. Buffett has always wanted to buy into good management. He has had his problems at Salomon, but Mr. Buffett wrote Wednesday that Sanford Weill, the chairman of the Travelers Group, "has demonstrated genius in creating huge value for his shareholders."

Rubin's Preaching in China Yields No Gains

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin preached the virtues of competition, open markets, freedom of information, a strong legal system and clean-business practices in a talk Thursday with Chinese students.

Later, in a one-hour meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, Mr. Rubin pressed for steps to reduce tensions between the two nations, including a reduction of the U.S. trade deficit with China, a further opening of Chinese markets, allowing U.S. customs agents to check for prison labor goods in accordance with a 1994 agreement and progress on human rights.

Mr. Rubin's visit here is designed in part to smooth the way for the summit meeting scheduled next month in Washington between Presidents Jiang Zemin and Bill Clinton.

"Building strong relations is absolutely critical to global prosperity and stability," Mr. Rubin said in a speech at People's University. "We in the United States have an enormous interest in a successful China."

But sources said that there was no concrete progress made during the meeting with Mr. Zhu, even though the tone of the meeting was friendly and candid and the Treasury secretary was impressed by China's top economic policymaker.

Mr. Rubin said that he believed a deal was near that could settle a dispute over whether the official Xinhua press agency would be allowed to censor, regulate, fix prices for and simultaneously compete with Western electronic economic news services. But sources familiar with the talks said a deal was not yet complete.

In other areas, Mr. Rubin reiterated the U.S. position on Beijing's effort to join the World Trade Organization, saying that the administration supported China's application but that it could only take place on terms consistent with WTO standards. Mr. Zhu did not change his position, which is that as a developing nation China needs time to make a transition to the WTO guidelines.

China Signs Big Kazak Oil Deal

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING — China has signed another major oil contract with Kazakstan, further evidence of a strategic shift by Beijing as it looks overseas for secure oil supplies to meet soaring domestic demand.

The $9.5 billion contract signed Wednesday gives the state-run China National Petroleum Corp. the right to exploit the Ozen oil field in southwest Kazakstan and build a pipeline into China.

The field is expected to pump 8 million tons of oil a year beginning in 2002.

The Chinese oil concern signed a $4.3 billion contract with Kazakstan in June to exploit three separate oil fields there over the next 20 years.

Also in June, China signed a $1.2 billion deal for Iraqi oil.

The deals represent Beijing's largest investment in foreign markets, and highlight the importance it is attaching to establishing ready sources of oil, needed to sustain its rapid economic growth.

"Up until recently, China was still pinning all its hopes on untapped reserves in its own Xinjiang region," said the Beijing-based exploration manager of a Western oil firm.

"But so far Xinjiang has failed to deliver, and with demand still climbing relentlessly, China's finally realized it had to go abroad in a big way. Hence this spate of large contracts."

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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

Sept. 25

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.fl.	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.991	3.239	1.1263	0.3352	0.1154*	—	5.4565*	1.3675	1.6408*	1.4375	1.3345*
Brussels	36.5375	59.2925	20.6415	6.147	2.1149*	18.3315	—	25.1725	30.303*	26.33	24.50*
Frankfurt	1.7744	2.8744	—	0.2976	0.1025*	0.888	4.8451*	1.2143	1.471*	1.279	1.1855*
London (a)	1.6264	—	2.8751	9.6571	2,885.66	3.2379	59.3148	2.3482	196.7131	2.2517	242.602
Madrid	149.71	242.68	84.377	25.115	8.444*	74.93	4.0882	102.45	124.004*	108.133	—
Milan	1,732.85	2,807.65	976.19	290.56	—	866.89	47.298	1,185.28	14.346	1,251.03	11.571
New York (b)	—	1.6285a	1.7395	5.9145	1,718.80	1.9814	36.28	1.449	120.825	1.3835	149.775
Paris	5.961	9.663	3.3397	—	0.3442*	2.9835	0.1623	4.0793	4.9375*	4.3056	3.982*
Tokyo	120.39	194.30	67.36	20.20	0.696	60.26	3.2987	82.63	—	86.73	0.8047
Toronto	1.3838	2.2571	0.786	0.2339	0.0805*	0.698	0.3808*	0.9546	1.1447*	—	0.932*
Zurich	1.4555	2.3681	0.8227	0.2449	0.0844*	0.7306	3.9077*	—	1.1999*	1.0517	0.9754*
1 ECU	1.1096	0.6845	1.9688	6.6344	1,921.92	2.217	40.6340	1.6215	133.964	1.5363	166.099
1 SDR	1.3639	0.8435	2.4229	8.1380	2,357.28	2.7251	49.9468	1.9958	163.984	1.8925	204.165

Closings in Amsterdam, London, Milan, Paris and Zurich, fixings in other centers; New York at 4 P.M. and Toronto rates at 3 P.M.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argent. peso	0.9998	Greek drac.	280.05	Mex. peso	7.795	S. Afr. rand	4.6905
Australian $	1.3789	Hong Kong $	7.737	N. Zealand $	1.5581	S. Kor. won	914.80
Austrian sch.	12.483	Hung. forint	196.07	Norw. krone	7.1625	Swed. krona	7.5429
Brazil real	1.095	Indian rupee	36.195	Phil. peso	33.40	Taiwan $	28.60
Chinese yuan	8.3151	Indo. rupiah	3006.0	Polish zloty	3.42	Thai baht	35.10
Czech koruna	33.29	Irish £	0.6821	Port. escudo	180.40	Turkish lira	172385.
Danish krone	6.7538	Israeli shek.	3.4986	Russ ruble	5858.5	UAE dirham	3.6725
Egypt. pound	3.4003	Kuw dinar	0.3028	Saudi riyal	3.75	Venez. boliv.	496.50
Fin. markka	5.2895	Malay. ring.	3.1015	Sing. $	1.5175		

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.6199	1.6178	1.6156	Japanese yen	120.15	119.65	119.12
Canadian dollar	1.3827	1.3804	1.3780	Swiss franc	1.4581	1.4565	1.4551
Deutsche mark	1.7704	1.7669	1.7635				

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Cera Investment Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo).

Libid-Libor Rates

Sept. 25

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU
1-month	5 9/16 - 5 11/16	3 1/8 - 3 1/4	1 1/4 - 1 3/8	7 3/16 - 7 5/16	3 1/4 - 3 5/16	1/2 - 5/8	4 1/8 - 4 1/4
3-month	5 11/16 - 5 13/16	3 1/4 - 3 5/16	1 5/16 - 1 7/16	7 - 7 1/4	3 5/16 - 3 7/16	1/2 - 5/8	4 5/16 - 4 7/16
6-month	5 13/16 - 5 7/8	3 3/8 - 3 1/2	1 1/2 - 1 5/8	7 5/16 - 7 7/16	3 7/16 - 3 1/2	1/2 - 5/8	4 7/16 - 4 9/16
1-year	5 15/16 - 5 15/16	3 9/16 - 3 3/4	1 9/16 - 1 11/16	7 1/2 - 7 11/16	3 9/16 - 3 3/4	9/16 - 5/8	4 1/2 - 4 1/2

Sources: Reuters, Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

United States	Close	Prev
Discount rate	5.00	5.00
Prime rate	8 1/2	8 1/2
Federal funds	5 1/2	5 1/2
90-day CDs dealers	5.60	5.60
180-day CP dealers	5.50	5.50
3-month Treasury bill	4.79	4.80
1-year Treasury bill	5.20	5.17
2-year Treasury bill	5.83	5.76
5-year Treasury note	6.03	5.97
7-year Treasury note	6.07	6.00
10-year Treasury note	6.13	6.04
30-year Treasury bond	6.40	6.32
Merrill Lynch 30-day RA	5.08	5.08
Japan		
Discount rate	0.50	0.50
Call money	0.47	0.44
1-month interbank	0.59	0.58
3-month interbank	0.54	0.54
6-month interbank	0.54	0.54
10-year Govt bond	2.13	2.16
Germany		
Lombard rate	4.50	4.50
Call money	3.08	3.10
1-month interbank	3.20	3.20
3-month interbank	3.32	3.31
6-month interbank	3.48	3.47
10-year Bond	5.70	5.51
Britain		
Bank base rate	7.00	7.00
Call money	7 1/16	7 1/16
1-month interbank	7 1/8	7 1/8
3-month interbank	7 1/4	7 1/4
6-month interbank	7 3/8	7 3/8
10-year Gilt	6.59	6.61
France		
Intervention rate	3.10	3.10
Call money	3 5/16	3 5/16
1-month interbank	3 1/4	3 1/4
3-month interbank	3 5/16	3 5/16
6-month interbank	3 7/16	3 7/16
10-year OAT	5.44	5.45

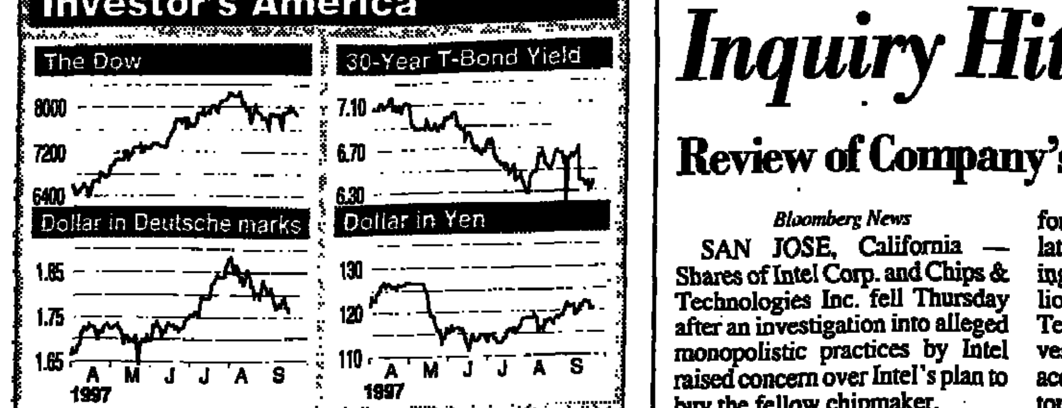
Sources: Reuters, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

Gold

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Zurich	323.45	326.50	+3.70
London	323.15	324.60	+1.90
New York	326.40	329.70	+3.90

U.S. dollars per ounce. London official fixings; Zurich and New York opening and closing prices; New York Comex (Dec.)
Source: Reuters.

Investor's America



Exchange	Index	Thursday @4PM	Prev. Close	% Change
NYSE	The Dow	7848.01	7906.71	-0.74
NYSE	S&P 500	937.93	944.48	-0.69
NYSE	S&P 100	905.94	912.55	-0.72
NYSE	Composite	491.52	494.27	-0.56
U.S.	Nasdaq Composite	1678.89	1687.41	-0.50
AMEX	Market Value	685.24	686.07	-0.12
Toronto	TSE Index	6974.86	7006.70	-0.46
Sao Paulo	Bovespa	11319.29	11487.96	-1.47
Mexico City	Bolsa	5225.02	5221.17	+0.07
Buenos Aires	Merval	815.23	818.13	-0.35
Santiago	IPSA General	5480.55	5506.74	-0.48
Caracas	Capital General	N.A.	10670.39	-

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters International Herald Tribune

Inquiry Hits Stock of Intel and Its Target

Review of Company's Planned Chips & Technologies Takeover Stirs Concerns

Bloomberg News

SAN JOSE, California — Shares of Intel Corp. and Chips & Technologies Inc. fell Thursday after an investigation into alleged monopolistic practices by Intel raised concern over Intel's plan to buy the fellow chipmaker.

Chips & Technologies fell 75 cents to close at $16.125, while Intel dropped $2.50 to $93.125.

Intel, the world's largest chipmaker, said late Wednesday that the Federal Trade Commission had begun investigating it for possible unfair practices designed to monopolize the market for microprocessors. The regulatory agency already was looking into Intel's pending $420 million purchase of Chips & Technologies, and the new investigation led to concern that the acquisition might face even tougher scrutiny.

"The government has some leverage over Intel in that it's already investigating the Chips & Technologies merger," said Mark Gidley, an antitrust attorney.

Still, some analysts expect the purchase to proceed.

"Intel is a very clean company on business practices," said John Rutledge of Loomis, Sayles & Co. "My best guess is that not much will come of this."

Mr. Rutledge said the Trade Commission had taken no action against Intel after a previous investigation was begun in 1991.

Intel has about 90 percent of the market for microprocessors, the brains of a personal computer. Chips & Technologies is the top maker of graphics chips used in portable computers.

Shares of the Intel competitor Advanced Micro Devices Inc. rose $1.50 to $32.75. Cyrix Corp., another rival, rose 56.25 cents to $32.75. The Federal Trade Commission, which is charged with promoting fair competition, is seeking to determine whether Intel attempted through unfair or deceptive practices to monopolize the market for microprocessors, according to an Intel spokesman. The investigation may have been instigated by a competitor's complaint, antitrust lawyers said.

Intel officials said they would cooperate with the agency and supply the requested documents, adding that the company's dominant position had made it vulnerable to such inquiries.

Bonds Pull Stocks Lower On Rate Fears

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Stocks and bonds fell Thursday as economic reports ignited concern about inflation, drove up interest rates and gave investors little incentive to buy.

Banking companies such as NationsBank and BancOne were among the biggest losers as rising bond yields cut the value of their bond holdings.

"Equities remain extremely sensitive to the bond market," said Hank Herrmann, chief investment officer at Waddell & Reed in Kansas City, Kansas.

U.S. STOCKS

The bond market does not have much more room to move without a cut in short-term interest rates by the Federal Reserve Board, he said.

That appeared unlikely after the day's economic reports. The Commerce Department said orders for long-lasting durable goods such as aircraft and electronic equipment rose more than expected in August, while a survey of weekly jobless claims showed a surprising drop, also suggesting the economy was expanding at a brisk pace. A report from the National Association of Realtors showed that U.S. home resales rose unexpectedly in August as mortgage rates continued to decline.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 7,848.01, down 58.70, with declining issues outnumbering advancers by a 15-to-13 ratio on the Big Board. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index closed at 937.93, down 6.55, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 8.52 to 1,678.89. The 30-year Treasury bond was at 99 18/32, down 20/32, with the yield at 6.40 percent, up from 6.31 percent. *(AP, Bloomberg)*

Citicorp and First Union to Try Cyberbanking

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Citicorp and First Union Corp. agreed Thursday to buy stakes in Integrion Financial Network, a bank consortium that is teaming up with International Business Machines Corp. to foster on-line banking and commerce.

Integrion, formed in January, distributes consumer electronic banking and bill-payment services to 10 of the 15 largest banks in North America, representing 75 percent of households. It is owned by IBM and 16 North American banks.

The companies did not disclose the financial terms or the size of the stakes.

"We intend to be a leader in the electronic-commerce industry," William Fennimore, Integrion's managing director, said. In the next several months, he said, the venture will be "in the middle of some very interesting alliances."

Citicorp has abandoned its strategy of developing proprietary systems as it works to develop large-scale electronic banking services for its customers worldwide.

In recent months, Citicorp opened a site on America Online Inc., hired Mining Co. to develop Internet banking sites and invested in Security First Network Bank.

First Union, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, also has moved aggressively to create a "cyberbank" that would supplement branches. The sixth-largest U.S. banking company, it is developing banking services using the Internet, direct-access computer and telephone lines.

Other Integrion owners are ABN-AMRO North America, BancOne Corp., BankAmerica Corp., Barnett Banks Inc., Comerica Inc., First Chicago NBD Corp., Fleet Financial Group Inc., IBM, KeyCorp., Mellon Bank Corp., Michigan National Bank, NationsBank Corp., Norwest Corp., PNC Bank Corp., Royal Bank of Canada, U.S. Bancorp., Visa USA and Washington Mutual Inc.

The addition of Citibank and First Union was a big boost for Integrion and for IBM, which are battling the computer giants Microsoft Corp. and Intuit Inc. for control of the nascent on-line banking business.

Integrion is also facing off against Mondex International and other players for Internet commerce and payments systems. *(AP, Bloomberg)*

Unilever Merger

Bloomberg News

ROTTERDAM — Unilever, the British-Dutch consumer products maker, said Thursday it would merge Chesebrough-Pond's USA Co., Helene Curtis Ltd. and Lever Brothers into a single American company valued at about $3.7 billion and called Unilever Home & Personal Care USA. The merger would take effect Wednesday. The three companies account for nearly half of Unilever's U.S. sales.

Very briefly:

Kodak to Cut Management by 20%

ROCHESTER, New York (Bloomberg) — Eastman Kodak Co. said Thursday it planned to trim its management ranks by 20 percent as the photography company embarked on a cost-cutting program designed to lift profit amid increased competition.

Kodak also will reduce its general and administrative staff by at least 10 percent, its first tangible moves since announcing last week that profit in the third quarter could fall as much as half from last year's. Kodak shares closed at $62.1875, up 56.25 cents.

Canadian Software Firms Slip

OTTAWA (Bloomberg) — Shares of two Canadian software companies fell Thursday after the companies warned of lower profits and slower growth.

Cognos Inc.'s shares fell 14.50 Canadian dollars ($10.83) to 30.65 after the maker of software that helps users analyze and manipulate information on databases said its growth over the next few quarters would slow even though the market for its products remained strong.

Corel Corp.'s shares fell 1.30 to 5.50. The company said its third-quarter loss widened because of lower sales of its WordPerfect and CorelDraw software, and it warned investors to expect a large fourth-quarter loss and lower revenue.

• **Japan** and the **United States** have extended the deadline for reaching an aviation agreement to next month from Tuesday, a State Department spokesman said.

• **General Electric Co.** said its GE Capital Services unit would combine its container-ship operations with those of **Sea Containers Ltd.** in a joint venture called **GE SeaCo Ltd.**

• **AT&T Corp.** named R.C.M. Baker to head its international operations as it attempted to bolster its prospects overseas.

Bloomberg

Japan's Slumping Economic Outlook Takes Toll on the Yen

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — The dollar rose Thursday against the yen as falling Japanese bond yields drove investors to seek higher returns elsewhere, but it fell against the Deutsche mark on revived speculation of a German interest-rate rise.

The yield on Japan's benchmark bond sank to a record low on expectations that continued poor economic performance would keep Japan from raising interest rates soon.

"There's an underlying conviction that the Japanese economy is very weak and showing the risk of decelerating," said Tim Stewart, a currency strategist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. "There have been a lot of capital flows into the dollar and out of the yen."

The dollar rose to 120.825 yen in 4 P.M. trading from 120.370 yen Wednesday. But it fell to 1.7595 DM from 1.7728 DM as comments by Helmut Schieber, a Bundesbank council member, and a report on rising import prices reignited talk that Germany's central bank was preparing to increase lending rates.

The yield on Japan's No. 182 bond, maturing in September 2005, fell to 1.89 percent, a record low. That means an investor buying a 10-year U.S. note would get a return

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

387 basis points, or 3.87 percentage points, higher than on a comparable Japanese government bond.

"The yield scenario is still very favorable for the U.S.," said Diego Giurleo, manager of foreign-exchange sales at Royal Bank of Canada. "The market continues to be pro-dollars."

The dollar was also buoyed by expectations that the Bank of Japan's quarterly *tankan* survey due Wednesday would show that managers in the third quarter were pessimistic about their companies' prospects in the next few months.

Bearishness on the Japanese economy is helping offset the effects of a comment by Japan's deputy finance minister for international affairs, Eisuke Sakakibara, who suggested that officials of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations did not want the yen to weaken further.

The dollar fell for a second day against the mark after Mr. Schieber said, "Perhaps the time is coming where one may have to move from an accommodating policy to a neutral one," according to Bridge News. Also fanning talk of a rate rise was the report that German import prices in August rose 0.9 percent from July and 5.4 percent from a year earlier.

Against other currencies, the dollar slipped to 5.9145 French francs from 5.9510 francs and to 1.4490 Swiss francs from 1.4590 francs. The pound was quoted at $1.6285, up from $1.6138.

AMEX

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

The top 300 most active shares, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Chge
[illegible]					

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Indexes

Dow Jones

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	7905.48	7929.54	7840.40	7848.01	-58.70
Trans	3163.11	3167.48	3138.42	3139.09	-28.22
Util	240.07	240.75	238.83	239.08	-1.10
Comp	2531.19	2536.06	2511.80	2513.62	-18.92

Standard & Poors

	Previous High	Low	Close	Today 4 P.M.
Industrials	1122.64	1103.55	1104.11	1097.80
Transp.	694.41	688.96	690.64	682.29
Utilities	208.64	205.96	206.07	205.20
Finance	113.19	111.52	111.52	110.07
SP 500	959.78	944.07	944.48	937.93
SP 100	927.68	912.55	912.55	905.94

NYSE

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	495.56	491.25	491.51	-2.76
Industrials	624.02	618.78	619.15	-2.44
Transp.	458.82	454.27	454.75	-3.99
Utility	296.19	293.58	293.73	-2.46
Finance	468.09	463.33	463.49	-4.57

Nasdaq

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Composite	1688.58	1677.57	1678.89	-8.52
Industrials	1363.66	1355.93	1357.82	-4.16
Banks	1874.32	1868.88	1870.76	-3.67
Insurance	1802.17	1772.51	1788.81	-12.85
Finance	2230.01	2217.51	2221.29	-11.18
Transp.	1108.49	1100.97	1101.93	-4.25

AMEX

	High	Low	Last	Chg.
	686.97	685.11	685.24	-0.83

Dow Jones Bond

	Close	Chg.
20 Bonds	104.04	-0.15
10 Utilities	101.73	-0.35
10 Industrials	106.36	+0.05

Most Actives

NYSE

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Motorcn	76383	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Compaq s	71077	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GlfCda g	51831	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MicrnT	50466	[illegible]	[illegible]	35	[illegible]
CocaCl	49958	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMD	43497	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FstData s	43016	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Travelrs s	43004	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GenElec s	41735	69	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PepsiCo	39042	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PhilMor s	38297	[illegible]	41	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avis n	38089	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
SaraLee	37865	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Medtrnic s	37497	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ColHCA s	37382	[illegible]	[illegible]	29	[illegible]

Nasdaq

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Cognos g	157162	[illegible]	[illegible]	22	[illegible]
TeleComA	136544	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Intel s	125596	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3Com	101038	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ascend	81336	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AmIntPf	72472	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	[illegible]
Camelot	58871	13	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oracle s	57144	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DellCpt s	53564	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AllrWste	53317	[illegible]	[illegible]	19	[illegible]
Cisco	52142	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Informx	49993	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LamRsch	46618	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Microsft s	46093	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MCI	45572	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

AMEX

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
SPDR	62514	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EchoBay	18241	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TubeMex	11478	23	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BemaGold	11180	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
XCL Ltd	9570	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JTS Corp	9009	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
RoyalO g	8446	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GreyhndL	6828	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PegGld	6490	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AirWat	6218	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Trading Activity

NYSE

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1372	1447
Declined	1499	1458
Unchanged	537	497
Total issues	3408	3402
New Highs	216	282
New Lows	13	12

Nasdaq

	Noon	Prev.
Advanced	1727	2136
Declined	1723	2103
Unchanged	1979	1496
Total issues	5429	5735
New Highs	159	396
New Lows	44	34

AMEX

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	323	308
Declined	277	291
Unchanged	168	148
Total issues	768	747
New Highs	50	57
New Lows	2	6

Market Sales

	Today 4:00	Prev. cons.
NYSE	529.34	728.29
Amex	31.43	36.18
Nasdaq	662.63	784.48

In millions.

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Rec	Pay
IRREGULAR				
BG plc	b	.8025	10-17	12-29
Broken Hill ADR	b	.255		
LucasVarity plc	b	.447	11-28	1-12
Pacific Dun ADR	b	.1988	10-10	11-21
Wright JrBlueChip	-	.05	9-24	9-29
Wright SelBluChip	-	.03	9-24	9-29
STOCK SPLIT				
Unilever NV 4 for 1 split.				
Unilever plc ADR 4 for 1 split.				
INCREASED				
Klamath Fst	Q	.08	10-3	10-20
SPECIAL				
Carma Corp	g	2.00	10-7	10-15
INITIAL				
ConAgra Inc n	-	.15625	11-7	12-1
Merchants Bncp n	-	.085	10-15	10-31
REGULAR				
BCB Fncl Svcs	Q	.07	10-6	10-20
Burnham Fd A	Q	.11	9-30	10-8
Camco Fncl	Q	.13	10-10	10-20
Community FdlB	Q	.075	10-2	10-16
Crazy Woman Cr	Q	.10	10-2	10-16
Eagle Bnchsrs	Q	.15	10-6	10-16
KCS Energy	Q	.02	10-10	11-25
Liqui-Box Cp	Q	.13	9-30	10-15
Mass Hlth&EdTx	M	.062	10-15	10-31
Mass Hlth&EdTx	M	.062	11-14	11-28
Mass Hlth&EdTx	M	.062	12-15	12-30
Meridian InsGrp	Q	.08	10-9	10-24
Morrison HlthCare	Q	.205	10-10	10-31
Natl Penn Bcshrs	Q	.21	10-31	11-17
Nipsco Indus	Q	.45	10-31	11-20
Permanent Bncp	Q	.10	10-10	10-24
Pioneer Std El	Q	.03	10-8	11-1
Roanoke Gas	Q	.26	10-17	11-1
Rouse Co	Q	.25	12-15	12-22
Sun Hydraulics	Q	.035	10-1	10-15
Tech/Ops Sev	Q	.15	10-3	10-15
Texarkana FstFncl	Q	.14	10-9	10-23
USF&G Corp	Q	.07	10-6	10-31

a-annual; b-approximate amount per share/ADR; g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Stock Tables Explained

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the years high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stocks only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.
a - dividend also extra (s). b - annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend. c - liquidating dividend. cc - PE exceeds 99.cld - called. d - new yearly low. dd - loss in the last 12 months. e - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months. f - annual rate, increased on last declaration. g - dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax. i - dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend. j - dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting. k - dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears. m - annual rate, reduced on last declaration. n - new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading. nd - next day delivery. p - initial dividend, annual rate unknown. P/E - price-earnings ratio. q - closed-end mutual fund. r - dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend. s - stock split. Dividend begins with date of split. sls - sales. t - dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date. u - new yearly high. v - trading halted. vi - in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies. wd - when distributed. wi - when issued/ ww - with warrants. x - ex-dividend or ex-rights. xdis - ex-distribution. xw - without warrants. y- ex-dividend and sales in full. yld - yield. z - sales in full.

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

Sept. 25, 1997

Grains

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
Dec 97	263	258	259 1/2	-1 1/2	191,936
Mar 98	271 1/4	266 1/4	268	-2	66,554
May 98	276 1/4	271 1/2	273	-1 1/2	14,646
Jul 98	279 1/4	275	276 1/4	-2	26,542
Sep 98	272	273	270 1/4	-1 1/2	1,950
Dec 98	270 1/4	265 1/2	267 1/2	unch.	16,536
Jul 99	283	281 1/2	283	-1/2	122
Est. sales 40,000 Wed's sales 31,864					
Wed's open int 312,014, up 1,096					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT) 100 tons- dollars per ton					
Oct 97	220.80	216.40	219.80	-0.10	24,729
Dec 97	206.00	202.30	205.70	-0.20	45,546
Jan 98	203.20	200.00	202.30	-0.80	13,251
Mar 98	198.50	196.70	198.20	unch.	12,345
May 98	197.30	195.50	196.80	-0.50	11,894
Jul 98	199.00	197.30	198.70	-0.10	6,075
Est. sales 18,000 Wed's sales 16,229					
Wed's open int 115,598, up 2,450					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) 60,000 lbs- cents per lb					
Oct 97	24.00	23.51	23.64	-0.06	12,411
Dec 97	24.48	23.89	23.97	-0.15	53,608
Jan 98	24.62	24.10	24.15	-0.17	15,060
Mar 98	24.95	24.35	24.38	-0.19	8,595
May 98	25.00	24.42	24.47	-0.18	5,575
Jul 98	25.10	24.52	24.52	-0.18	4,960
Est. sales 20,000 Wed's sales 16,361					
Wed's open int 101,240, off 244					
SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
Nov 97	643	631 1/2	634 1/2	-3 1/4	97,869
Jan 98	644	635	637 1/2	-3 1/4	26,457
Mar 98	651	643	645 1/2	-3 1/4	10,909
May 98	659	652	653 1/2	-3	9,252
Jul 98	665	658 1/2	660 1/4	-3 1/4	10,109
Est. sales 43,000 Wed's sales 40,256					
Wed's open int 158,402, up 2,973					
WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel					
Dec 97	366 1/2	363	365 3/4	+1/2	61,618
Mar 98	380 1/2	377	379	-1/2	24,217
May 98	387	384	385 1/4	-1/4	4,985
Jul 98	386 1/2	383 1/2	384 3/4	-1 1/4	10,362
Est. sales 13,000 Wed's sales 15,092					
Wed's open int 103,972, up 1,722					

Livestock

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Oct 97	68.10	67.50	67.95	+0.42	24,192
Dec 97	68.27	67.80	67.92	+0.15	35,024
Feb 98	71.00	70.57	70.82	+0.12	16,067
Apr 98	73.95	73.52	73.65	+0.07	10,086
Jun 98	70.40	70.10	70.37	+0.15	6,697
Aug 98	70.15	70.00	70.00	+0.10	2,009
Est. sales 15,735 Wed's sales 20,258					
Wed's open int 94,138, off 277					
FEEDER CATTLE (CMER) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Sep 97	79.45	79.32	79.42	+0.17	1,390
Oct 97	79.30	78.62	78.82	+0.32	7,318
Nov 97	80.30	79.82	80.02	+0.35	3,984
Jan 98	81.10	80.67	80.80	+0.07	3,347
Mar 98	80.90	80.45	80.65	+0.07	1,812
Apr 98	80.95	80.55	80.55	+0.05	620
Est. sales 3,691 Wed's sales 6,222					
Wed's open int 19,181, off 108					
HOGS-Lean (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Oct 97	70.00	69.57	69.72	-0.40	10,994
Dec 97	65.80	65.35	65.57	-0.12	10,669
Feb 98	64.77	64.40	64.62	-0.12	4,138
Apr 98	61.75	61.40	61.57	-0.22	1,669
Jun 98	67.05	66.75	66.85	-0.35	1,173
Est. sales 5,406 Wed's sales 7,795					
Wed's open int 29,843, off 490					
PORK BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Feb 98	64.40	63.75	63.87	-0.02	4,990
Mar 98	64.15	63.60	63.60	-0.10	469
May 98	65.20	64.50	64.60	+0.37	108
Est. sales 1,518 Wed's sales 1,194					
Wed's open int 5,638, off 56					

Food

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
COCOA (NCSE) 10 metric tons- $ per ton					
Dec 97	1720	1684	1703	+12	40,896
Mar 98	1742	1713	1731	+13	27,234
May 98	1762	1729	1751	+13	11,941
Jul 98	1790	1768	1770	+12	2,589
Sep 98	1787	1787	1787	+14	4,510
Dec 98	1805	1803	1803	+14	6,581
Est. sales 1,821 Wed's sales 12,941					
Wed's open int 105,138, off 1,936					
COFFEE C (NCSE) 37,500 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Dec 97	171.00	165.00	166.00	-2.65	12,831
Mar 98	158.00	153.50	154.00	-2.10	5,909
May 98	152.50	148.75	148.75	-2.40	1,971
Jul 98	145.00	143.50	143.50	-2.65	1,730
Sep 98	139.00	138.25	138.25	-2.90	466
Est. sales 6,181 Wed's sales 5,500					
Wed's open int 23,117, up 93					
SUGARWORLD 11 (NCSE) 112,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Oct 97	10.75	10.60	10.61	-0.15	24,056
Mar 98	11.44	11.26	11.33	-0.08	98,085
May 98	11.62	11.47	11.53	-0.06	22,374
Jul 98	11.47	11.35	11.41	-0.04	17,736
Est. sales 48,695 Wed's sales 44,854					
Wed's open int 170,624, up 683					

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Nov 97	74.30	69.90	73.75	-2.85	18,544
Jan 98	76.50	72.30	76.45	+3.55	9,559
Mar 98	79.50	76.30	79.50	+3.70	6,329
May 98	82.30	79.10	82.30	+3.40	1,596
Est. sales 4,700 Wed's sales 998					
Wed's open int 37,066, up 146					

Metals

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
GOLD (NCMX) 100 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Sep 97			327.20	-1.60	46
Oct 97	328.50	324.30	327.40	-1.60	5,112
Nov 97			328.10	-1.60	
Dec 97	330.20	325.40	329.50	-1.60	116,388
Feb 98	331.50	327.40	331.10	-1.50	15,450
Apr 98	333.30	330.50	332.90	+3.50	5,670
Jun 98	335.50	332.70	334.90	-1.60	8,810
Aug 98			337.00	-1.60	4,487
Oct 98			339.10	-1.60	350
Est. sales 60,000 Wed's sales 30,600					
Wed's open int 192,158, off 2,237					
HI GRADE COPPER (NCMX) 25,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Sep 97	94.25	93.20	93.60	-0.75	1,441
Oct 97	94.40	93.00	93.75	-0.90	3,108
Nov 97	94.50	93.75	94.35	-1.00	1,815
Dec 97	96.25	93.60	94.75	-1.05	27,383
Jan 98	95.00	94.80	95.00	-0.80	1,047
Feb 98	95.35	95.25	95.25	-0.55	1,064
Mar 98	95.60	94.30	95.25	-0.55	4,800
Apr 98	95.25	95.20	95.25	-0.45	873
May 98	95.50	94.50	95.30	-0.40	2,363
Est. sales 10,000 Wed's sales 5,014					
Wed's open int 51,854, off 440					
SILVER (NCMX) 5,000 troy oz.- cents per troy oz.					
Sep 97	477.50	474.00	474.60	+3.50	129
Oct 97			474.70	+3.00	78
Nov 97			476.50	+3.00	
Dec 97	482.50	473.50	478.50	+3.00	53,277
Jan 98			480.00	+3.00	22
Mar 98	487.00	482.00	484.80	+3.00	13,230
May 98	438.30	486.00	488.30	+3.00	3,268
Jul 98	492.00	491.00	491.90	+3.00	2,363
Est. sales 16,000 Wed's sales 9,460					
Wed's open int 78,685, up 646					
PLATINUM (NMER) 50 troy oz.- dollars per troy oz.					
Oct 97	439.00	431.00	431.40	-6.60	8,117
Jan 98	428.50	422.00	422.40	-2.60	5,200
Apr 98	415.00	412.00	412.40	-2.60	671
Jul 98			408.40	-2.60	3
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 2,630					
Wed's open int 13,991, up 190					

	Close		Previous	
LONDON METALS (LME) Dollars per metric ton				
Aluminum (High Grade)				
Spot	1624.00	1625.00	1631.00	1632.00
Forward	1636.00	1637.00	1638.00	1639.00
Copper Cathodes (High Grade)				
Spot	2066.00	2067.00	2082 1/2	2084 1/2
Forward	2092.00	2093.00	2110.00	2112.00
Lead				
Spot	647.00	648.00	639.00	640.00
Forward	649.00	650.00	647.00	648.00
Nickel				
Spot	6365.00	6375.00	6340.00	6345.00
Forward	6460.00	6470.00	6440.00	6445.00
Tin				
Spot	5630.00	5640.00	5565.00	5575.00
Forward	5675.00	5680.00	5620.00	5625.00
Zinc (Special High Grade)				
Spot	1680.00	1685.00	1660.00	1665.00
Forward	1438.00	1439.00	1434.00	1435.00

Financial

	High	Low	Close	Chge	Opint
US T BILLS (CMER) $1 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Dec 97	95.00	94.98	94.98	unch.	4,781
Mar 98	94.98	94.96	94.96	-0.03	2,839
Jun 98			94.89	unch.	125
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 158					
Wed's open int 7,745, up 113					
5 YR TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 64ths of 100 pct					
Dec 97	107-41	107-14	107-17	-22	237,554
Est. sales 61,350 Wed's sales 37,779					
Wed's open int 239,687, up 3,823					
10 YR TREASURY (CBOT) $100,000 prin- pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Dec 97	110-19	110-00	110-01	-17	377,732
Mar 98	110-00	109-22	109-22	-17	12,156
Jun 98			109-11	-17	1
Est. sales 92,457 Wed's sales 67,251					
Wed's open int 396,902, up 7,869					
US TREASURY BONDS (CBOT) (8 pct-$100,000-pts & 32nds of 100 pct)					
Dec 97	116-12	115-10	115-11	-30	613,992
Mar 98	115-29	115-00	115-01	-30	36,942
Jun 98			114-22	-30	2,113
Sep 98			114-12	-31	1,906
Est. sales 520,000 Wed's sales 421,174					
Wed's open int 674,148, up 33,405					
GERMAN GOV. BUND (LIFFE) DM250,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Dec 97	103.08	102.83	102.84	-0.11	285,745
Mar 98	102.20	102.14	102.04	-0.10	4,285
Est. sales: 174,183. Prev. sales: 200,269					
Prev. open int.: 290,030 up 14,064					
LONG GILT (LIFFE) £50,000 - pts & 32nds of 100 pct					
Sep 97	118-18	118-12	118-15	+0-02	2,183
Dec 97	118-09	117-17	118-00	+0-02	175,378
Est. sales. 109,802. Prev. sales: 51,234					
Prev. open int.. 177,578 up 1,505					

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
10-YEAR FRENCH GOV. BONDS (MATIF) FF500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Dec 97	100.04	99.78	99.88	-0.06	142,657
Mar 98	99.36	99.18	99.26	-0.06	3,930
Jun 98	98.98	98.98	98.92	-0.06	0
Est. sales: 122,496.					
Open int.: 146,587 up 4,517.					
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIFFE) ITL 200 million - pts of 100 pct					
Dec 97	112.46	112.13	112.24	-0.01	122,903
Mar 98	112.28	112.25	112.12	+0.02	980
Est. sales: 45,275. Prev. sales: 54,781					
Prev. open int.: 123,883 up 4,809					
LIBOR 1-MONTH (CMER) $3 million- pts of 100 pct.					
Oct 97	94.37	94.35	94.36	unch.	28,820
Nov 97	94.34	94.31	94.32	-0.01	30,274
Dec 97	94.17	94.14	94.15	-0.02	8,101
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 2,932					
Wed's open int 71,229, up 499					
EURODOLLARS (CMER) $1 million-pts of 100 pct.					
Oct 97	94.25	94.24	94.24	-0.01	23,141
Dec 97	94.19	94.15	94.16	-0.02	582,609
Mar 98	94.14	94.07	94.08	-0.05	405,802
Jun 98	94.06	93.98	93.99	-0.06	308,801
Sep 98	93.98	93.89	93.90	-0.07	238,051
Dec 98	93.87	93.78	93.79	-0.07	208,230
Mar 99	93.86	93.76	93.77	-0.08	147,204
Jun 99	93.81	93.72	93.73	-0.07	114,352
Sep 99	93.77	93.69	93.69	-0.08	97,722
Dec 99	93.71	93.62	93.62	-0.09	84,415
Mar 00	93.70	93.62	93.62	-0.09	71,460
Jun 00	93.67	93.59	93.59	-0.09	57,633
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 276,080					
Wed's open int 2,654,741, up 25,513					
BRITISH POUND (CMER) 62,500 pounds, $ per pound					
Dec 97	1.6250	1.6064	1.6228	+.0144	28,447
Mar 98	1.6150	1.6150	1.6164	+.0144	237
Jun 98			1.6102	+.0142	27
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 3,917					
Wed's open int 28,711, off 47					
CANADIAN DOLLAR (CMER) 100,000 dollars, $ per Cdn. dlr					
Dec 97	.7266	.7237	.7264	+0.0026	46,539
Mar 98	.7300	.7286	.7297	+0.0026	1,543
Jun 98	.7322	.7319	.7320	+0.0026	417
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 9,485					
Wed's open int 48,421, off 1,280					
GERMAN MARK (CMER) 125,000 marks, $ per mark					
Dec 97	.5710	.5656	.5709	+0.0035	56,916
Mar 98	.5740	.5696	.5740	+0.0035	2,320
Jun 98			.5770	+0.0025	2,513
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 29,989					
Wed's open int 61,849, up 1,369					
JAPANESE YEN (CMER) 12.5 million yen, $ per 100 yen					
Dec 97	.8428	.8323	.8367	-0.0044	74,024
Mar 98	.8480	.8450	.8478	-0.0044	789
Jun 98			.8591	-0.0044	165
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 26,826					
Wed's open int 74,979, off 1,861					
SWISS FRANC (CMER) 125,000 francs, $ per franc					
Dec 97	.6959	.6894	.6956	+0.0031	37,762
Mar 98	.7025	.6980	.7025	+0.0031	1,210
Jun 98			.7092	+0.0031	175
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 11,875					
Wed's open int 29,253, off 9,088					
MEXICAN PESO (CMER) 500,000 pesos, $ per peso					
Dec 97	.12450	.12410	.12410	-.00085	23,935
Mar 98	.12020	.11980	.11980	-.00106	8,489
Jun 98	.11640	.11610	.11610	-.00106	1,816
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 9,509					
Wed's open int 35,433, off 690					
3-MONTH STERLING (LIFFE) £500,000 - pts of 100 pct					
Dec 97	92.60	92.56	92.56	-0.02	129,061
Mar 98	92.61	92.52	92.55	-0.03	104,894
Jun 98	92.69	92.59	92.61	-0.05	86,571
Sep 98	92.81	92.71	92.73	-0.05	65,749
Dec 98	92.94	92.86	92.88	-0.03	60,740
Mar 99	93.08	93.00	93.04	-0.01	64,660
Jun 99	93.20	93.11	93.15	Unch.	41,577
Est. sales: 115,126. Prev. sales: 76,512					
Prev. open int.: 639,096 up 2,490					
3-MONTH EUROMARK (LIFFE) DM1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Oct 97	96.63	96.62	96.62	-0.01	7,294
Nov 97	96.53	96.53	96.52	-0.02	792
Dec 97	96.47	96.43	96.44	-0.03	292,676
Mar 98	96.25	96.20	96.21	-0.04	294,596
Jun 98	96.02	95.97	95.98	-0.05	236,181
Sep 98	95.82	95.78	95.79	-0.05	180,323
Dec 98	95.62	95.58	95.59	-0.04	153,055
Mar 99	95.46	95.43	95.43	-0.04	153,327
Jun 99	95.32	95.28	95.28	-0.04	76,860
Sep 99	95.18	95.15	95.15	-0.03	62,998
Est. sales: 203,638. Prev. sales: 243,068					
Prev. open int.: 1,576,935 up 2,480					
3-MONTH PIBOR (MATIF) FF5 million - pts of 100 pct					
Dec 97	96.44	96.40	96.42	-0.02	37,354
Mar 98	96.22	96.17	96.20	-0.02	32,537
Jun 98	96.00	95.96	95.99	-0.02	27,074
Sep 98	95.85	95.80	95.83	-0.03	23,480
Dec 98	95.67	95.64	95.65	-0.04	26,592
Est. sales: 50,125.					
Open int.: 210,519 up 4,363.					
3-MONTH EUROLIRA (LIFFE) ITL 1 million - pts of 100 pct					
Dec 97	94.06	93.99	94.00	-0.05	100,427
Mar 98	94.77	94.68	94.70	-0.05	92,320
Jun 98	95.15	95.10	95.10	-0.02	74,131
Sep 98	95.25	95.19	95.22	+0.03	52,234
Dec 98	95.22	95.19	95.21	+0.03	42,077
Mar 99	95.16	95.13	95.14	+0.04	21,059
Est. sales: 86,687. Prev. sales: 82,544					
Prev. open int.: 396,481 up 2,587					

Industrials

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
COTTON 2 (NCTN) 50,000 lbs.- cents per lb.					
Oct 97	71.98	71.20	71.90	+0.30	283
Dec 97	74.46	73.63	73.78	-0.32	47,960
Mar 98	75.55	74.80	74.85	-0.35	14,948
May 98	76.05	75.40	75.47	-0.26	6,518
Jul 98	76.43	76.00	76.10	-0.30	6,170
Est. sales 7,508 Wed's sales 10,876					
Wed's open int 84,550, off 707					
HEATING OIL (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
Oct 97	56.60	55.25	56.51	+1.27	23,536
Nov 97	57.45	56.15	57.37	+1.32	38,961
Dec 97	58.25	56.90	58.17	+1.27	24,786
Jan 98	58.77	57.40	58.77	+1.22	21,574
Feb 98	58.92	58.10	58.92	+1.17	12,155
Mar 98	58.17	57.50	58.17	+1.12	8,881
Apr 98	56.77	55.70	56.77	+1.02	4,594
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 43,358					
Wed's open int 150,417, up 53					
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NMER) 1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.					
Nov 97	20.47	19.95	20.39	+0.45	102,829
Dec 97	20.54	20.05	20.46	+0.42	61,448
Jan 98	20.50	20.08	20.46	+0.38	37,383
Feb 98	20.48	20.12	20.44	+0.36	18,851
Mar 98	20.50	20.25	20.42	+0.34	11,017
Apr 98	20.40	20.23	20.40	+0.33	9,114
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 74,210					
Wed's open int 383,143, off 730					
NATURAL GAS (NMER) 10,000 mm btu's, $ per mm btu					
Oct 97	3.230	3.005	3.230	+0.211	32,915
Nov 97	3.370	3.090	3.370	+0.285	50,003
Dec 97	3.326	3.180	3.326	+0.150	29,522
Jan 98	3.290	3.150	3.290	+0.150	26,521
Feb 98	2.900	2.775	2.890	+0.110	18,082
Mar 98	2.600	2.480	2.600	+0.125	12,022
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 87,394					
Wed's open int 249,331, up 1,790					
UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) 42,000 gal, cents per gal					
Oct 97	59.35	58.30	59.25	+0.88	17,796
Nov 97	58.00	57.00	57.85	+0.88	36,209
Dec 97	57.60	56.55	57.49	+0.87	15,160
Jan 98	57.70	57.00	57.60	+0.87	14,401
Feb 98	58.10	57.60	58.00	+0.87	4,264
Mar 98	59.00	58.60	58.75	+0.87	5,732
Apr 98	61.55	61.10	61.35	+0.82	4,051
May 98	61.45	61.30	61.45	+0.82	2,533
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 32,748					
Wed's open int 104,973, up 2,111					
GASOIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per metric ton - lots of 100 tons					
Oct 97	172.50	171.00	172.50	+2.25	23,170
Nov 97	174.50	172.50	174.25	+2.75	16,496
Dec 97	175.75	174.00	175.50	+2.50	16,871
Jan 98	177.25	175.75	177.00	+2.50	12,692
Feb 98	177.25	175.50	177.25	+2.50	7,565
Mar 98	175.50	175.50	175.75	+2.25	4,813
Apr 98	N.T.	N.T.	174.25	+2.25	2,321
Est. sales: 11,331. Prev. sales: 14,793					
Prev. open int.: 93,096 off 108					
BRENT OIL (IPE) U.S. dollars per barrel - lots of 1,000 barrels					
Nov 97	19.24	18.84	19.14	+0.34	71,944
Dec 97	19.32	18.95	19.25	+0.35	27,364
Jan 98	19.35	19.00	19.27	+0.35	23,453
Feb 98	19.27	19.00	19.23	+0.31	9,429
Mar 98	19.17	19.00	19.17	+0.30	4,357
Apr 98	19.08	19.00	19.08	+0.26	2,323
Est. sales: 48,445. Prev. sales: 26,509					
Prev. open int.: 149,282 up 5,417					

Stock Indexes

	High	Low	Latest	Chge	Opint
SP COMP INDEX (CMER) 500 x index					
Dec 97	956.80	945.50	946.80	-7.60	187,136
Mar 98	965.00	956.90	957.10	-7.65	2,985
Jun 98			975.10	Unch.	733
Est. sales N.A. Wed's sales 67,876					
Wed's open int 191,022, up 433					
FTSE 100 (LIFFE) £25 per index point					
Dec 97	5160.0	5158.0	5135.0	-34.0	64,293
Mar 98	5188.0	5183.0	5178.0	-35.0	1,805
Est. sales: 5,863. Prev. sales: 7,584					
Prev. open int.: 66,098 up 415					
CAC 40 (MATIF) FF200 per index point					
Sep 97	3028.0	3000.0	3001.0	-23.0	35,683
Oct 97	3033.0	3007.0	3007.5	-23.0	12,885
Nov 97	3035.5	3029.0	3015.5	-23.0	4,986
Dec 97	3046.5	3028.0	3023.5	-23.0	9,025
Mar 98	3070.0	3053.0	3048.0	-21.5	10,900
Jun 98	3030.0	3030.0	3021.0	-23.0	1,275
Sep 98	3059.0	3051.0	3037.0	-20.5	6,406
Mar 99	0.00	0.00	3098.0	-20.5	3,960
Est. sales: 39,817.					
Open int.: 85,120 off 1,403.					

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	1,547.20	1,546.40
Reuters	1,896.40	1,899.20
D.J. Futures	146.08	146.90
CRB	242.99	241.99

Sources: Matif, Associated Press, London Int'l Financial Futures Exchange, Int'l Petroleum Exchange.

Kia Creditors Move To Back Receivership

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — With three days left to avert what would be the biggest bankruptcy in South Korean history, creditors of Kia Group appeared Thursday to be moving toward putting the troubled automotive conglomerate under court receivership after the government hardened its stance toward the company.

Kia asked a Seoul court Thursday to halt payments on debts at nine small units, including Kia Precision Works. It asked the court Monday to freeze the debts of its four main units, including Kia Motors Co. and Asia Motors Co., and override creditors' demands that Kia's top executives resign.

Deputy Prime Minister Kang Kyung Shik urged Kia's creditor banks Thursday to reject the company's proposals and said the government would not bail out the conglomerate, which had sales last year of $13 billion and is struggling under $10 billion of debt.

"Our economy has paid the price for Kia," Mr. Kang said.

Noting that Kia would be virtually bankrupt even if its debts were frozen, he said it should be put under court receivership, a process that would guarantee additional loans.

First Korea Bank and other creditors said they had yet to decide whether to accept Kia's bid for court protection. The bankers are to meet Friday; Kia's grace period on its debts ends Monday.

Kia is the latest in a string of South Korean industrial groups, or *chaebol*, to run into trouble because of mounting debts and the country's slowing economy. If it fails, banks will be left with billions of dollars of bad debts, heightening concern about lenders' own financial health and in all likelihood driving down South Korean stocks.

The benchmark stock index fell for a fifth day amid growing concern that banks would reject Kia's proposals. The index fell 8.75 points, or 1.33 percent, to 647, a six-month low.

"It's just too risky to own any Kia or banking shares," said Park Jae Woo of Donghwa Bank. "If Kia fails, it will probably be more damaging on equities than anything else."

Standard & Poor's Corp. said Thursday that South Korean companies with large debt loads might not be able to repay their obligations as economic growth began to slow and reforms of the financial system opened the country to international competition.

"Korean companies have used all financial means available to them to fund their expansion drives," said Daisuke Fukutomi, a director at the rating concern. As a result, he said, the companies are "overextended."

A First Korea executive said Kia and creditors were close to an agreement before Kia unilaterally filed for court protection.

Kia said it had had little choice but to ask courts to freeze its debts for several years and then allow them to be repaid at below-market interest rates. *(AFP, Bloomberg)*

Payoff Scandal Ensnares Nikko

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — A high-profile racketeer-payoff scandal spread to include the last of Japan's four largest brokerages Thursday when prosecutors raided Nikko Securities Co. over suspected illegal payments.

The raid on Nikko's headquarters, 10 other offices and the homes of its president and chairman by more than 200 agents came a day after the arrest of a former Yamaichi Securities Co. president, Atsuo Miki, for his role in the scandal, which has also ensnared Nomura Securities Co. and Daiwa Securities Co. as well as Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd., a leading commercial bank.

Tokyo prosecutors said Nikko was suspected of having funneled 14 million yen ($117,000) in illegal payoffs to Ryuichi Koike, an admitted racketeer, in return for his promise that the brokerage's annual shareholder meetings in 1995 and 1996 would go smoothly.

A government official said Nikko officials had admitted to some of the suspected deals with Mr. Koike during an investigation by regulators.

Nikko, the third-largest Japanese brokerage concern, said it was taking the raids "very seriously and with great regret" and would cooperate with investigators.

Nikko's top executives are considered almost certain to resign en masse, a traditional act of penitence in Japan that could soften any penalties that the Ministry of Finance decides to impose on the brokerage.

Daiwa said Wednesday that its president, chairman and five other top executives would resign at the end of this month. Top managers at Nomura and Yamaichi already have stepped as a result of the scandal. Prosecutors said last week that they suspected Daiwa of having made 67.3 million yen in illegal payoffs to Mr. Koike.

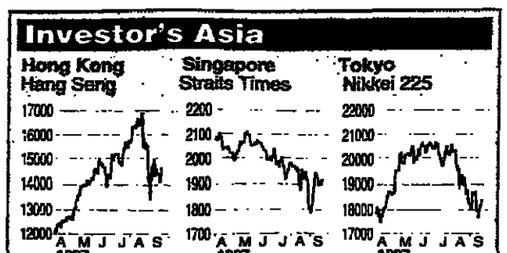
Payoffs to *sokaiya*, racketeers who extort money from companies by threatening to expose dubious business practices or disrupt shareholders meetings, have been illegal since 1983, but companies have found it difficult to sever underworld ties.

The scandal has emerged as Tokyo moves to implement its so-called Big Bang financial reforms aimed at increasing competition and bringing Japan's financial sector up to global standards.

It is the second big scandal to engulf the four leading brokerages in six years. All four, as well as many smaller brokerages, were found in 1991 to have improperly compensated certain large clients. Top executives at Nomura and Nikko at that time also resigned after some of their affiliates admitted links with a leading gangster.

Nikko's shares fell 19 yen to close at 506, Nomura rose 70 to 1,590, Yamaichi gained 5 to 230, and Daiwa advanced 3 to 715. *(Reuters, Bloomberg)*

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	14,636.59	14,205.44	+3.04
Singapore	Straits Times	1,921.09	1,900.51	+1.08
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,779.20	2,768.90	+0.37
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	18,341.96	18,420.08	-0.42
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	789.33	779.41	+1.27
Bangkok	SET	567.36	547.02	+3.72
Seoul	Composite Index	647.00	655.75	-1.33
Taipei	Stock Market Index	8,791.81	8,994.02	-2.25
Manila	PSE	2,065.56	2,077.04	-0.55
Jakarta	Composite Index	559.22	553.65	+1.01
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,565.58	2,551.22	+0.56
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,687.56	3,825.91	+1.61

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

• **Japan**'s merchandise trade surplus for the first 10 days of September more than doubled from a year earlier, to 205.16 billion yen ($1.71 billion), as automakers and electronics companies stepped up exports to meet strong demand in the United States and Europe.

• **Korea Telecom** indefinitely postponed a meeting with investors that was scheduled for Thursday, an executive said, casting doubt over its plan to sell as much as 1 trillion won ($1.1 billion) of shares by October. The Seoul government said the meeting had been delayed so it could discuss the sale with securities firms, but newspapers said the government feared that the sale would hurt other companies by flooding the market with shares.

• **Daewoo Corp.** said its chairman, Kim Woo Choong, visited North Korea last week to check on the progress of the company's manufacturing plant there.

• **Burns Philp & Co.**'s shares plummeted 58 percent to close at 90 Australian cents (65 U.S. cents) after it was announced that the value of its North American and European herb and spice assets had been slashed to 150 million dollars from 850 million dollars, a far bigger cut than analysts had expected.

• **LG Semicon Co.**, the world's seventh-largest maker of memory chips, plans to invest $14 billion over four years to make a new generation of computer chips and multimedia equipment.

• **Taiwan** awarded a priority negotiation contract to **Taiwan High-Speed Railway Alliance**, a consortium of 29 conglomerates including **Siemens AG**, to build the island's first high-speed railway for 336.6 billion Taiwan dollars ($11.8 billion). The project is scheduled for completion in 2003.

• **Toyota Motor Corp.**'s chairman, Shoichiro Toyoda, said Japan's auto exports would drop next year because of automakers' expansion of production facilities overseas.

AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters, Bridge News

ALFRED BERG SICAV

Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable

Registered Office:
26, route d'Arlon • L-1140 Luxembourg
R.C. Luxembourg B 26150

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders of Alfred Berg Sicav (the "Corporation") will be held at 11.30 a.m. on October 14, 1997 at the registered office of the Corporation, 26, route d'Arlon, Luxembourg, with the following agenda:

To amend articles 16, 22, 23 and 25 of the Articles of Incorporation mainly to allow for the suspension redemptions under certain conditions and to amend certain valuation rules.

The full text of the proposed amendments is available at the registered office of the Corporation.

Shareholders are advised that a quorum of 50% of the shares outstanding is required and that the resolutions must be carried by a majority of 2/3 of the shares represented at the meeting.

If the quorum is not reached, it is expected that a further meeting will be convened at which no quorum will be required.

September 22, 1997 The Board of Directors

Holders of bearer shares wishing to attend the extraordinary general meeting have to deposit their shares, at least 24 hours before the meeting, with Swiss Bank Corporation (Luxembourg) Ltd., where proxy forms may be obtained.

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ALFRED BERG NORDEN

Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable

Registered Office:
26, route d'Arlon • L-1140 Luxembourg
R.C. Luxembourg B 26149

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders of Alfred Berg Norden (the "Corporation") will be held at 11 a.m. on October 14, 1997 at the registered office of the Corporation, 26, route d'Arlon, Luxembourg, with the following agenda:

To amend articles 5, 8, 16, 21, 23, 25 and 27 of the Articles of Incorporation mainly to change the reference currency of the Corporation from the United States Dollar to the Swedish Crown and amend certain valuation rules.

The full text of the proposed amendments is available at the registered office of the Corporation.

Shareholders are advised that a quorum of 50% of the shares outstanding is required and that the resolutions must be carried by a majority of 2/3 of the shares represented at the meeting.

If the quorum is not reached, it is expected that a further meeting will be convened at which no quorum will be required.

September 22, 1997 The Board of Directors

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ALCATEL ALSTHOM

First half 1997 results:
• Growth in activity • Improvements in results.

On September 17, 1997, Serge Tchuruk, Chairman and CEO, presented the first half 1997 results to the Board of Directors.

Net income amounted to FF 1.5 billion compared with a loss of FF 0.4 billion in the first half 1996. This increase of almost FF 1.9 billion is due mainly to the improvement in income from operations which increased by more than FF 2.0 billion totaling FF 2.7 billion for the first half 1997, compared with FF 0.5 billion for the corresponding period in 1996.

This development confirms the favorable trends observed during the second half 1996. It reflects the recovery actions undertaken almost two years ago. The strong rebound in activity is linked, in particular, to the growth strategy implemented for the buoyant telecommunications market, coupled with the reduction in operating costs to restore profit margins, despite strong pricing pressures.

The Board of Directors noted that these results were well in line with the action plan, of which the objective is to restore profitability. The Board also noted that the outlook for income from operations should confirm a progression at the same pace in the second half of 1997 as that registered during the first six months.

Analysis of Results as of June 30, 1997

With an increase of 9.1% for the first six months of 1997, orders amounted to FF 88.9 billion compared with FF 81.4 billion for the corresponding period in 1996. At a comparable structure, orders increased by 3.7%. Once again, Telecom increased significantly with +18%.
Consolidated net sales amounted to FF 86.8 billion compared with FF 74.3 billion for the first six months of 1996 (+17%). This rise was due to the increasing volume of orders registered during 1996. At a comparable structure, sales increased by 12.6%. All segments, and notably Telecom with +19%, significantly improved their performance.
Each segment positively contributed to the recovery in income from operations, as indicated below:

Income from Operations
before financial income (loss)

(in FF billion)	First half 1997	First half 1996 New structure
Telecom	0.6	(1.3)
Cables and Components	1.3	1.1
Engineering and Systems	0	(0.1)
GEC Alsthom	0.7	0.7
Others and inter-segment sales	0.1	0.1
Total	**2.7**	**0.5**

The streamlining of the organization into four segments has resulted in the following structural changes:
– integration of Batteries and Components activities into the Cables and Components segment, with the exception of Alcatel Mietec and optoelectronic components, which remained in the Telecom segment;
– transfer of the submarine cable activity to the Telecom segment.

A segment analysis of income from operations highlights the following elements:

Telecom

Income from operations returned to a positive level, following the trend observed at the end of 1996. Its improvement of close to FF 1.9 billion, largely contributed to the Group's progress in profitability. The growth rate in the Access and Transmission divisions, as well as in Mobile communications, was at the same, or higher, level as in 1996. In addition, a sustained rebound in orders occurred for submarine telecommunications networks. Finally, the first half 1997 was characterized by a significant level of business in the Radio, Space and Defense division.

Cables and Components

An improvement of more than 15% was registered, with the segment's income from operations benefiting from the strong expansion in telecommunications-related areas, be they fiber optics or data cables. Continued restructuring in the other divisions have enabled them to maintain their level of performance, as in preceding years.

Engineering and Systems

Income from operations now includes the activities of the new subsidiary Cegelec AEG AAT. The return to break-even at June 30, 1997, reflects also the recovery of Alcatel Siette, a former Telecom activity which was transferred to the Engineering and Systems segment in 1996.

GEC Alsthom

Income from operations was comparable to that of the first half 1996, (+4.3%) despite a difficult competitive environment and the weak demand in Europe. Thanks to its efforts made during the first six months, GEC Alsthom won several major orders, including one for 8 hydraulic turbines for the Three Gorges hydro-electric power plant in China, and one for the biggest power plant in Chile (740 MW). In rail transportation, GEC Alsthom was awarded an order for 112 suburban trainsets for the Danish railways, in the framework of an European consortium.

Net income returned to a positive level of FF 1,489 million, compared with a loss of FF 374 million at June 30, 1996. Combined with the recovery in income from operations, this increase includes the following elements:
– restructuring costs of FF 759 million, compared with FF 246 million at June 30, 1996, arising largely as a result of provisions made by GEC Alsthom;
– income tax amounting to FF 578 million, compared with an income tax credit of FF 109 million for the first half 1996, reflecting principally the increase in income for consolidated companies and the FF 653 million profit arising from the revised treatment of tax consolidation in France in 1996. The income tax charge for the period takes into account the potential impact of the increase in corporation tax rates announced by the French government; the effect on the Group's 1997 consolidated accounts should be non-material.
– capital gains on disposals of financial investments, including part of those held in Havas, and disposed of in April 1997 as part of the non-strategic asset disposal program.

In addition, income of equity affiliates in 1997 no longer includes Cofira and Havas which were de-consolidated in 1996 and 1997, respectively.

In the framework of the employee shareholding policy established in 1987, the Board of Directors decided to reserve for employees a capital increase through the issue of a maximum of 1,200,000 shares, at a subscription price of FF 630 per share, conforming to the authorization granted to them by the Annual Shareholders Meeting of June 22, 1995. This operation must be completed before December 31, 1997.

"Safe Harbor" statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995: This press release contains forward-looking statements relating to the Group's expectations for an improvement in profitability. Such expectations assume that (i) the Group will benefit from growth in the telecommunications market, and (ii) the Group's sales volume will increase in several product markets. Actual results could differ materially from the above as a result of these or other factors.

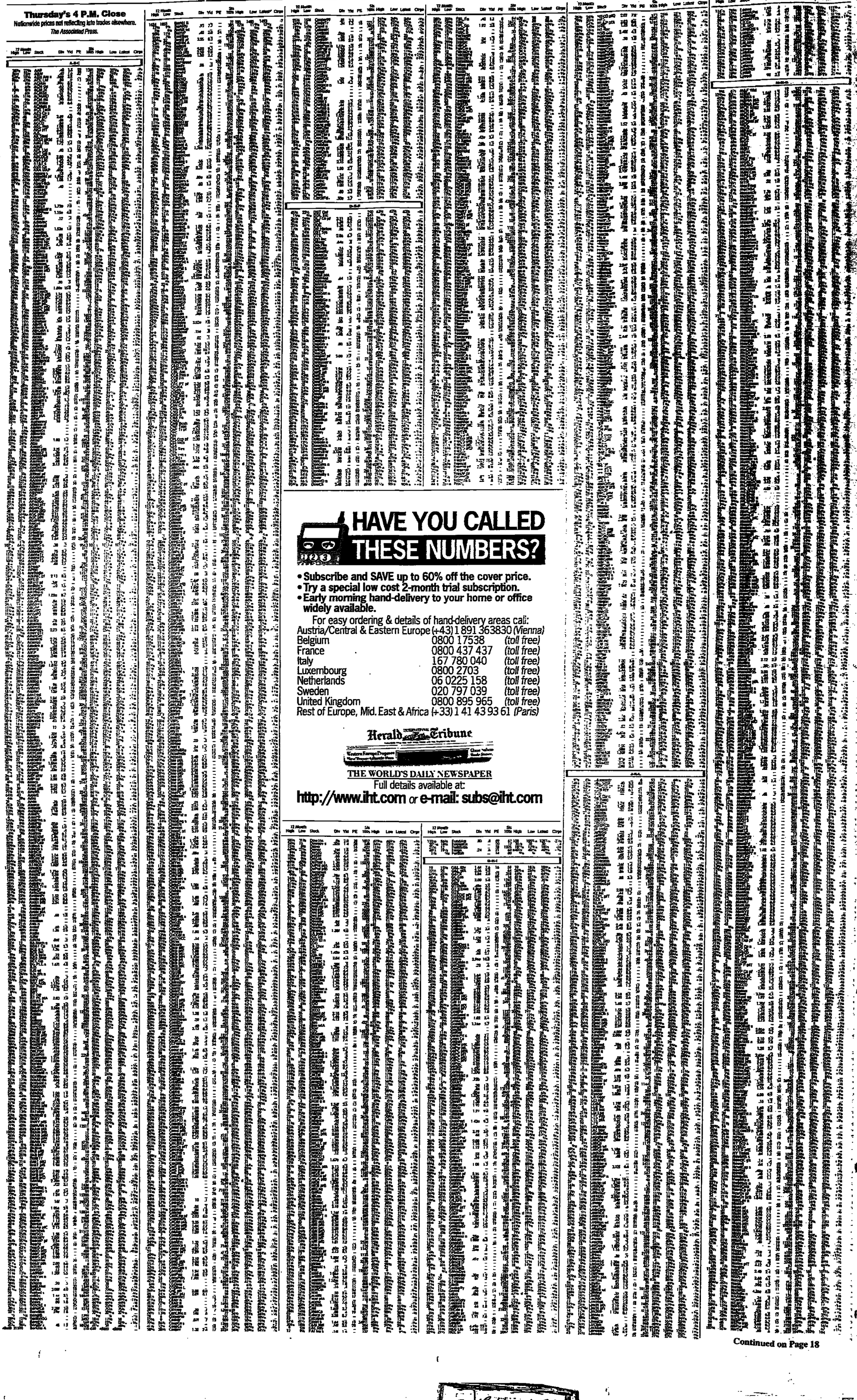
INVESTORS RELATIONS: Tel 33 (0) 1 40 76 10 10 • Fax 33 (0) 40 76 14 05 • Email: http://www.alcatel.com

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.

The Associated Press.



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Herald Tribune

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Continued on Page 18

Auto Sales Spur Fiat to 46% Gain in Pretax Profit

Bloomberg News

TURIN — Fiat SpA said Thursday that its pretax profit jumped 46 percent in the first half of the year, powered by a recovering car market in Italy, and that it returned to a net cash position for the first time since 1990.

Pretax profit at Europe's second-largest carmaker and Italy's largest company by sales rose to 2.263 trillion lire ($1.31 billion) in the first half from 1.547 trillion a year ago.

Fiat's improved results reflect a government incentive program that has bolstered Italian car sales by a third so far this year, with Fiat holding on to a stake of roughly 44 percent of the market.

The company said sales rose 11.7 percent, to 44.94 trillion lire.

Overall, Fiat said it sold 1,359,000 cars in the first half, up 10.8 percent from a year ago. Sales gained 27.8 percent in Italy, 11.3 percent in Poland, and 29.5 percent in Brazil. Fiat's share of the European market rose to 12.7 percent from 11.8 percent.

The improved profit and the one-time gained helped Fiat swing to a net cash position of 775 billion lire, compared with a net debt of 2.51 trillion lire a year ago.

Fiat shares rose 5 lire to close at 6,250 lire.

Carlsberg's British Unit to Reorganize

Brewer to Slash Work Force and Invest £40 Million After Bass Merger Fails

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

COPENHAGEN — Carlsberg-Tetley PLC said Thursday it would cut 40 percent of its work force in Britain, close or sell three breweries and invest £40 million ($64.5 million) over the next few years in an attempt to turn around the company.

The move by the British unit of Carlsberg AS, Denmark's largest brewer, follows months of uncertainty about its future after a merger with Bass PLC, a British brewer, was blocked, and it comes amid intensifying competition among brewers globally.

The brewer said it would cut its work force in Britain to 2,200 from 3,700 over a two-year period and that it might close its Burton brewery in central England by April 1999 if a buyer for it cannot be found. Breweries at Alloa in Scotland and Wrexham in Wales will be shut by May 1998 and October 1999, respectively, the unit said, and it will invest £40 million in its other breweries over the period.

The reorganization's costs are to be covered by funds originally set aside for the purchase of Bass PLC's 50 percent stake in Carlsberg-Tetley. Bass bought the stake from Allied Domecq PLC, a British beverage maker and pub operator, for £200 million in August 1996.

"This plan will create a future for Carlsberg-Tetley as a profitable and viable company with a staff of dedicated employees and clear objectives," said Michael Iuul, chief executive of Carlsberg International AS.

Bass said it had contacted Carlsberg-Tetley to discuss buying the Burton brewery. "We've just recently started discussions," said Philip Malpass, a spokesman for Bass. An agreement could be completed in one to two months, he said.

Carlsberg said it would maintain its Tetley brewery in Leeds and the Carlsberg brewery in Northampton in England and that both would be expanded.

The brewer said it regretted having to cut the 1,500 jobs but said the plan was necessary after the planned Bass merger fell through.

Carlsberg has had 100 percent ownership of Carlsberg-Tetley since Aug. 22, after the Bass stake was sold back to the Danish brewer for £110 million. The buyback came after Britain's secretary for trade and industry, Margaret Beckett, blocked the proposed merger on the grounds that it would give Bass, which already has 35 percent of the £6 billion British beer market, too large a share.

Carlsberg shares closed in Copenhagen at 377 kroner ($55.89), up 2.

(Bloomberg, AFX, Reuters)

It's the End of the Road for British Shoe, Sears Decides

Reuters

LONDON — The retail conglomerate Sears PLC posted a first-half loss Thursday and said it was selling its unprofitable British Shoe Corp. unit, marking the demise of a business that once dominated shoe retailing in Britain.

Sears, which also owns — and has said it plans to spin off — Selfridges department store, decided that getting rid of the shoe business was the best option but that 150 Shoe Express stores would have to close, putting 600 to 700 jobs at risk, according to David James, the executive chairman who was hired to solve British Shoe's problems.

Sears posted underlying group pretax profit of £2.1 million but had a loss of £98.3 million in the half after exceptional items. Sales, adjusted for divestitures, rose 1.7 percent, to £857.6 million.

The proposed sale of British Shoe marks another stage in the break-up of a retail empire built by Sir Charles Clore in the 1950s and 1960s that once spanned jewelry and gambling as well as shoes and fashion.

"This is the end of British Shoe," said Sir Bob Reid, chairman. "it's the end of the Clore dream."

Sears said it would take a £150 million ($242 million) charge this year for the sale of British Shoe Corp., which had a first-half loss of £19.6 million.

That charge consists of £80 million to be marked down against first-half earnings for "impairment of assets of the footwear business," and a provision of around £70 million in the second half to cover the restructuring and sale. Sears said it expected the net cash effect of the plan to be broadly neutral.

The planned divestiture of British Shoe, whose outlets include Dolcis, Cable and Shoe Express, follows several failed attempts by a former chief executive, Liam Strong, to turn around the business. Mr. Strong left in May after five years in the post.

Sears also said it expected Britain's Monopolies and Mergers Commission to make a decision in November on its plans to sell its Freemans mail-order business Freemans to Littlewoods PLC.

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INGERSOLL-RAND COMPANY (CDRs)

Referring to the advertisement of 11 August 1997 the undersigned announces that the new shares from 3 for 2 stock have been received. As from 29 September 1997 one CDR Ingersoll-Rand each repr. 5 shares cum div. no. 100 s.r.a. and talon will be gratuitously obtainable at Amsterdam Depositary Company N.V., Spuistraat 172, 1012 VT Amsterdam against delivery of 2 div. cp.no. 99 of CDRs repr. 5 shares. After 28 November 1997 the equivalent of the CDRs, which have not been claimed by holders of div.cp.no. 99, will be sold. The proceeds, after deduction of expenses, will be held in cash at the disposal of said holders.

Furthermore the undersigned announces that as from 1 october 1997 at Kas-Associatie N.V., Spuistraat 172, Amsterdam, div.cp.no. 100 of the CDRs Ingersoll-Rand Company each repr. 5 shares will be payable with Dfl. 1.22 net. (div. per rec. date 19.08.97; gross $0,15 p.sh.) after deduction of 15% USA-tax = $0.1125 = Dfl. 0.23 per CDR. Div.cps. belonging to non residents of the Netherlands will be paid after deduction of an additional 15% USA-tax (= $0,1125 = Dfl. 0.23) with Dfl. 0,99 net.

AMSTERDAM DEPOSITARY COMPANY N.V.

Amsterdam, September 23, 1997

Losses at Redland and Laura Ashley Pummel Share Prices

Bloomberg News

LONDON — Shares in Redland PLC and Laura Ashley Holdings PLC fell sharply Thursday after the companies posted first-half losses and warned of sales disappointments to come.

Redland PLC said the German home-construction market had declined and that the company needed to cut costs as it reported a first-half loss of £700,000 ($1.1 million), in contrast to a profit of £49 million a year earlier.

Redland said it would address the "significant decline" in the German market, mentioned also in a recent warning by RMC Group PLC, by cutting 550 jobs at its RBB roofing-tiles unit this year at a cost of 50 million Deutsche marks ($28.2 million), a charge it will take in the second half.

Chief Executive Robert Napier said the company would take another charge of 50 million DM to cover further cost cuts next year to try to reduce RBB's cost base by 10 percent. RBB accounts for about half of Redland's sales of £1.05 billion and for 56.8 million DM, or 72 percent, of its operating profit.

The bad news on the German market followed Redland's announcement Tuesday that it was holding talks to merge its French aggregates business with Lafarge SA in a move that may require it to take charges of about £100 million. That was after Redland had failed to find a buyer for the unit.

"It's a no-win scenario for the management," said Simon Brown, an analyst at Williams de Broe. He said the "only reason" for holding the stock had been the prospect that Redland could float its RBB unit or be taken over.

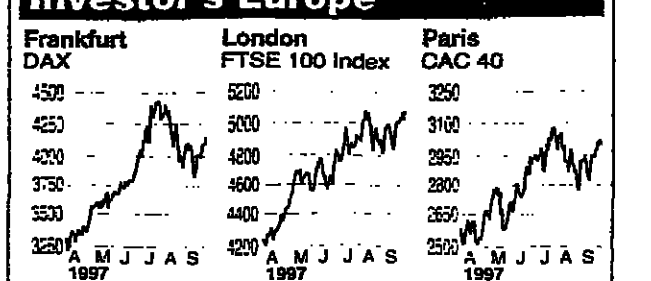
Although he still sees it as vulnerable to a takeover, he cut his 1997 pretax profit forecast to £200 million from £250 million.

Laura Ashley said problems with getting the right products into its clothing stores at the right time meant it would not break even this year, its third profit warning in six months.

Its loss for the six months ended July 26 was £4.4 million, reversing net income a year earlier of £3.4 million. Sales for the half rose 12 percent, to £174.6 million. The company has struggled in the past two years as a rapid expansion designed to reverse a cycle of losses in the early 1990s exposed flaws in its supply chain, leaving stores with too much of its less popular clothing and a shortage of some best-selling home-furnishing lines.

Laura Ashley said the problems had been caused by a lack of discipline and of management control over basic operations.Redland's shares closed at 219 pence, down 64, or 23 percent. Laura Ashley closed at 59, down 6.5, or 9.9 percent.

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	AEX	904.51	905.16	-0.07
Brussels	BEL-20	2,390.29	2,389.73	+0.02
Frankfurt	DAX	4,148.58	4,102.39	+1.13
Copenhagen	Stock Market	627.77	623.34	+0.71
Helsinki	HEX General	3,591.44	3,582.57	+0.25
Oslo	OBX	702.75	699.57	+0.45
London	FTSE 100	5,065.50	5,077.20	-0.23
Madrid	Stock Exchange	623.39	629.39	-0.95
Milan	MIBTEL	15850	15919	-0.43
Paris	CAC 40	3,005.38	3,023.77	-0.61
Stockholm	SX 16	3,479.19	3,525.13	-1.30
Vienna	ATX	1,419.17	1,420.21	-0.07
Zurich	SPI	3,623.86	3,661.72	-1.03

Source: Telekurs — International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- **Poland's** gross domestic product grew 7.6 percent in the second quarter, mainly because of a surge in construction. But the government said floods that affected parts of the country in July might affect third-quarter results.
- **Russia** will begin selling shares in **RAO Rosneft**, the last major state-owned oil company, by the end of the year, the State Property Committee said. Rosneft, the 10th-largest producer, accounts for about 5 percent of Russian oil output.
- **Telefonica de Espana SA** and **Pearson PLC's** Spanish publisher **Recoletos** are buying shares in one another's operations as they seek to expand their television interests across the Spanish-speaking world.
- **France's** Socialist-led government will announce changes in welfare taxes Friday aimed at increasing the purchasing power of the lower-paid by reducing payroll levies and drawing more revenue from taxes on salaries and savings interest.
- **Skis Rossignol SA** said the decline in its net profit this year could exceed the 34 percent drop it saw last year because of higher charges and costs for developing products. The news sent stock in the world's largest maker of winter-sports goods plunging 13.40 French francs, to 122.50 ($20.60). The company also will seek a partner for its unprofitable golf division.
- **Djurgardens IF** said a public offering for shares in the Swedish ice hockey team **Djurgarden Hockey AB** had been oversubscribed.
- **Benfield Group** is acquiring the rival reinsurer **Greig Fester** for £120 million ($193.5 million) in cash and stock.
- **Thyssen AG's** plant-construction unit **Thyssen Still Otto Anlagentechnik GmbH** won a 700 million Deutsche mark ($392.6 million) order to build part of a new iron and steel mill in Taiwan.
- **British Telecommunications PLC** is inviting companies in the service and content-provider industries to take part in a trial of high-speed interactive networks and services in London next year.

Reuters, Bloomberg, AFX

The Trib Index

Prices as of 3:00 P.M. New York time

Jan. 1, 1992 = 100.	Level	Change	% change	year to date % change
World Index	177.23	+1.70	+0.97	+18.83
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	120.57	+2.52	+2.13	-2.32
Europe	194.11	+2.63	+1.37	+20.42
N. America	208.00	-0.31	-0.15	+28.47
S. America	169.28	+1.62	+0.97	+47.93
Industrial Indexes				
Capital goods	224.82	+0.79	+0.35	+31.54
Consumer goods	195.91	+1.77	+0.91	+21.36
Energy	207.08	+1.31	+0.64	+21.31
Finance	131.34	+1.79	+1.38	+12.78
Miscellaneous	184.90	+0.97	+0.53	+14.29
Raw Materials	187.45	+1.57	+0.84	+6.88
Service	166.95	+2.52	+1.53	+21.58
Utilities	171.64	+1.72	+1.01	+19.64

The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index © tracks the U.S. dollar values of 280 internationally investable stocks from 25 countries. For more information, a free booklet is available by writing to The Trib Index,181 Avenue Charles de Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly Cedex, France. Compiled by Bloomberg News.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Amsterdam — AEX index: 904.51, Previous: 905.16

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABN-AMRO	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aegon	158.20	155.50	157.60	156.20
Ahold	54.40	53	53.60	54.40
Akzo Nobel	331.90	329.10	331	330.70
Baan Co.	139.90	136	138.30	136.90
Bols Wess cva	35.70	35.10	35.30	35.60
CSM cva	93.80	93.20	93.10	93.80
Dordtsche Pet	109.90	108.20	108.50	109.10
DSM	198	191.70	193.20	192
Elsevier	32.70	32.10	32.20	32.10
Fortis Amev	83.10	81.30	82	82.10
Getronics	64.50	60.30	62.40	61.40
G-Broc cva	56.40	55	55.60	56
Hagemeyer	102.60	99.60	100.70	101.30
Heineken	349.40	347	348.40	348.50
Hoogovens cva	125.90	124.30	125.40	125.40
Hunt Douglas	89.30	87	89	86.90
ING Group	91.40	90.50	90.70	91.20
KLM	70.30	69.10	70.20	69.80
KNP BT	53.30	50.20	53	49.90
KPN	76.50	74.60	75	76
Nedlloyd Gp	66.20	65.50	65.60	66
Nutricia	59.70	58.80	59.30	59.30
Oce Grinten	250.70	246.20	248.50	249.80
Philips Elec	161	157	159.40	156.40
Polygram	114.70	110.80	112.50	113.90
Randstad Hdg	82	80	82	80
Robeco	193.20	192.10	192.10	194.30
Rodamco	61.10	60.80	60.80	60.80
Rolinco	193.60	193.60	193.60	195
Rorento	119.40	118.30	118.30	118.20
Royal Dutch	108.50	106.80	107.80	108
Unilever cva	425	422	422.90	426.50
Vendex Intl	118.30	117.10	118.10	118.50
VNU	44.30	43.60	44.10	43.60
Wolters Kl cva	252.50	247.10	247.50	248.50

Bangkok — SET index: 567.36, Previous: 547.02

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Adv Info Svc	260	238	252	238
Bangkok Bk F	190	175	185	169
Krung Thai Bk	28.25	26	27.50	26
PTT Explor	416	400	410	398
Siam Cement F	612	600	600	600
Siam Com Bk F	131	119	130	119
Telecomasia	32	30.50	30.75	30.25
Thai Airways	56.50	51.50	56.50	51.50
Thai Farm Bk F	131	113	123	107
Utd Comm	113	106	110	106

Bombay — Sensex 30 index: 3887.54, Previous: 3825.91

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bajaj Auto	543	527	540.50	526
Hindust Lever	1329.75	1315.25	1329.50	1318.25
Hindust Petm	480	470	478.25	472.75
Ind Dev Bk	106	104.25	104.50	105
ITC	578	552.75	578	548.25
Mahanagar Tel	270.50	259	269	258.75
Reliance Ind	350	341	349.75	339.50
State Bk India	276.50	272.50	276.50	271.75
Steel Authority	15	14.25	14.50	14.50
Tata Eng Loco	329.75	324	329	324.50

Brussels — BEL-20 index: 2390.29, Previous: 2389.73

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Almanij	1595	1515	1550	1500
Barco Ind	7320	7230	7300	7280
BBL	9450	9380	9410	9350
CBR	3175	3120	3150	3135
Colruyt	18400	18125	18150	18275
Delhaize Lion	1795	1770	1785	1785
Electrabel	7630	7570	7600	7620
Electrafina	3440	3410	3440	3410
Fortis AG	7290	7210	7250	7230
Gevaert	3000	2925	2950	2950
GBL	5750	5620	5620	5660
Gen Banque	14700	14425	14650	14550
Kredietbank	14650	14500	14500	14500
Petrofina	14400	14025	14100	14100
Powerfin	4950	4930	4940	4930
Royale Belge	9300	9150	9300	9110
Soc Gen Belg	3390	3320	3350	3370
Solvay	2185	2140	2150	2155
Tractebel	14900	14850	14850	14875
UCB	124100	122400	123100	123400

Copenhagen — Stock index: 627.77, Previous: 623.34

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
BG Bank	380	373.90	377	374
Carlsberg B	390	367	377	375
Codan Fors	917	909	917	915
Danisco	369	364	366	361
Den Danske Bk	708	694	702	689.69
D/S Svendbrg B	450000	425000	450000	427000
D/S 1912 B	312000	300000	308000	300000
FLS Ind B	201	196	200	200
Kob Lufthavne	790	788.75	790	790
Nvo Nordisk B	715	698	705	705
Sophus Ber B	1082.70	1069	1075	1070
Tele Danmk B	356	352	352	354
Tryg Baltica	401	384	390	391
Unidanmark A	425	418	425	420

Frankfurt — DAX: 4148.58, Previous: 4102.39

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMB B	1610	1600	1610	1580
Adidas	232	227	231.50	230.20
Allianz Hdg	426.50	420.50	421.50	421.50
Altana	134.80	131.50	133.10	134.20
Bk Berlin	45.45	45.10	45.45	45.30
BASF	63.85	62.60	63.65	62.70
Bayer Hypo Bk	74.35	73.90	73.95	73.18
Bay.Vereinsbank	97.90	96.90	97.60	96.10
Bayer	71.60	70.85	71.60	70.75
Beiersdorf	82	79.50	79.50	80.35
Bewag	40.80	40	40.80	39.60
BMW	1458	1390	1450	1392
CKAG Colonia	160.70	158.50	158.50	161
Commerzbank	64.05	63.50	63.90	63.80
Daimler Benz	145.40	143.50	144.55	144.50
Degussa	98.90	97.50	98.50	95.50
Deutsche Bank	118.30	116.05	117.70	115.15
Deut Telekom	34.15	33.75	33.80	33.68
Dresdner Bank	81.50	79.40	80.40	81
Fresenius	312	310	310	314
Fresenius Med	128	127	127.20	126.50
Fried. Krupp	377	368	377	375.20
Gehe	99.50	97.80	97.80	100
Heidelbg Zmt	147.50	147	147.50	143
Henkel pfd	104.50	102	102.60	102.50
HEW	482	482	482	482
Hochtief	83.60	81.20	81.80	81.20
Hoechst	78	77.50	77.60	76.40
Karstadt	657.50	640	640	644.50
Lahmeyer	99.70	99	99.50	99.50
Linde	1275	1245	1275	1230
Lufthansa R	35	34.75	34.83	34.85
MAN	559.50	552	552	557
Mannesmann	871	867	867.80	856
Metallgesellschaft	39.30	38.90	39.30	39
Metro	82.50	81	81.80	80
Munch Rueck R	608	587.60	604	579
Preussag	508.50	504	508.50	508.50
RWE	84.80	83.60	83.90	84.80
SAP pfd	455.90	444	454.50	443.80
Schering	187	184.50	185.90	181.20
SGL Carbon	255	250	254.80	247
Siemens	123.15	122.30	123.15	121.15
Springer (Axel)	1530	1530	1530	1550
Suedzucker	892	882	892	882
Thyssen	409	406.50	407.80	406
Veba	103.50	102.60	103	102.20
VEW	575	575	575	575
Viag	775	766	767	760
Volkswagen	1242	1229	1234	1216

Helsinki — HEX General index: 3591.44, Previous: 3582.57

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Enso A	50.50	50.50	50.50	50.90
Huhtamaki I	215	211	213	210
Kemira	49.20	48.80	48.80	49.50
Kesko	73	72.50	73	73
Merita A	23.40	22.80	23	22.50
Metra B	154.50	151.50	153	154
Metsa-Serla B	48.50	47	47	48.50
Neste	144	139	141	137.10
Nokia A	478	472	473	473.50
Orion-Yhtymae	184.50	183	183.50	183.50
Outokumpu A	96.50	95	95.80	97
UPM Kymmene	145	142	144	143
Valmet	88.20	87.50	87.90	87.70

Hong Kong — Hang Seng: 14626.59, Previous: 14205.38

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amoy Props	8.35	8.10	8.35	8.20
Bk East Asia	28.50	27.50	28.50	27.60
Cathay Pacific	11.95	11.45	11.75	11.40
Cheung Kong	85.25	82	85.25	84.25
CK Infrastruct	22.60	22	22.35	21.95
China Light	43.10	41.90	43	42
Citic Pacific	43.80	42.40	43.80	42.20
Dao Heng Bk	34.80	33.40	33.70	34.80
First Pacific	7.85	7.50	7.75	7.65
Hang Lung Dev	14.60	14.40	14.55	14.55
Hang Seng Bk	90.50	88	90.25	88.25
Henderson Inv	8.60	8.50	8.60	8.40
Henderson Ld	65.75	64.25	65.50	64.50
HK China Gas	15.75	15.45	15.70	15.55
HK Electric	28.25	27.90	28.25	28.15
HK Telecomm	17.10	16.70	17.05	16.75
Hopewell Hdgs	4.55	4.38	4.53	4.35
HSBC Hdgs	240	235	240	232
Hutchison Wh	72.50	69.25	72.50	69.50
Hysan Dev	23.30	23.05	23.25	23.05
Johnson El Hdg	20.65	20.60	20.65	20.60
Kerry Props	18.35	18.05	18.05	18.15
New World Dev	47.10	44.40	47	44.40
Oriental Press	2.52	2.50	2.52	2.50
Pearl Oriental	1.10	1.06	1.09	1.07
SHK Props.	90.50	88.50	90.50	88.75
Shun Tak Hdgs	5.05	4.75	5	4.75
Sino Land Co.	7.10	6.95	7.05	7
Sth China Post	7	6.90	6.90	6.85
Swire Pac A	59.75	58.75	59.50	59
Wharf Hdgs	28.20	27.40	27.90	27.80
Wheelock	15.80	15.55	15.60	15.60

Jakarta — Composite index: 559.22, Previous: 553.65

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Astra Intl	3425	3250	3300	3250
Bk Intl Indon	1025	950	1025	975
Bk Negara	975	925	950	950
Gudang Garm	9750	9575	9650	9500
Indocement	2425	2350	2400	2400
Indofood	4450	4150	4375	4125
Indosat	8150	8075	8125	8075
Sampoerna HM	7100	6825	6875	6875
Semen Gresik	3225	3100	3150	3075
Telekomunikasi	3650	3575	3625	3575

Johannesburg — All Market: 7094.71, Previous: 7057.74

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Absa group	31.30	30.50	31.20	30.20
AngloAm Coal	276	274	274	277.50
AngloAm-Corp	240	232	240	232
AngloAm Gold	243	238	242.75	237.50
AngloAm Ind	183.50	180.75	181.50	182
AngloAM Plat	81	80	81	80.25
AVMIN	11	10.95	10.95	11.20
Barlow	54	53.25	53.50	53.50
C.G. Smith	22.75	22.10	22.60	22.10
De Beers	139.75	139	139.75	138.50
Driefontein	30.40	29.80	30.40	29.50
Fst Natl Bk	36.10	35.75	36.10	36
Gencor	10.15	9.96	10	10.15
GFSA	90	90	90	92.50
Imperial Hdgs	62.25	62	62.25	62.25
Ingwe Coal	22	21.50	22	21.90
Iscor	3.10	3.05	3.09	3.05
Johnnies Indl	60.50	59	60	60.50
Liberty Hdgs	361	361	360	361
Liberty Life	137	134	135	136.25
LibLife Strat	16	15.70	16	16.10
Minorco	102	101	102	101
Nampak	17.80	17.20	17.50	17.10
Nedcor	102	100	102	103
Rembrandt Gp	41	40	40.50	40.60
Richemont	63.50	62.75	63.50	63.25
SA Breweries	132	130	132	130
Samancor	34.30	34.25	34.30	34.50
Sasol	64.75	63	64.50	63.50
SBIC	205	204	204	204.75
Tiger Oats	69	68.25	68.25	68.50

Kuala Lumpur — Composite: 789.33, Previous: 779.41

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AMMB Hdgs	8.60	8.15	8.40	8.40
Genting	10.40	10	10.20	10.10
Mal Banking	16	15.50	16	15.60
Mal Intl Ship F	6.05	5.75	6.05	5.75
Petronas Gas	9.35	9.25	9.35	9.35
Proton	8.90	8.50	8.85	8.50
Public Bk	2.73	2.67	2.71	2.70
Renong	3.24	3.20	3.22	3.22
Resorts World	7.15	6.95	7.15	7.10
Rothmans PM	27.75	27	27	27.75
Sime Darby	6.10	5.90	6.10	6
Telekom Mal	9.35	9.10	9.25	9.20
Tenaga	8.20	7.70	8	7.80
Utd Engineers	10.50	9.70	9.70	10.50
YTL	4.10	3.96	3.98	4.10

London — FT-SE 100: 5065.50, Previous: 5077.20

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abbey Natl	9.07	8.95	9.04	8.99
Allied Domecq	4.80	4.72	4.76	4.78
Anglian Water	8.10	7.93	7.99	8.05
Argos	6.95	6.76	6.78	6.93
Asda Group	1.68	1.64	1.65	1.66
Assoc Br Foods	5.39	5.35	5.36	5.47
BAA	5.73	5.52	5.56	5.70
Barclays	15.30	15.07	15.29	15.19
Bass	8.50	8.25	8.31	8.48
BAT Ind	5.35	5.19	5.24	5.35
Bank Scotland	4.83	4.67	4.74	4.72
Blue Circle	3.95	3.90	3.94	3.95
BOC Group	11.30	11.20	11.22	11.26
Boots	8.74	8.63	8.73	8.64
BPB Ind	3.40	3.33	3.38	3.48
Brit Aerosp	16.45	16.13	16.44	16.25
Brit Airways	6.74	6.63	6.68	6.63
BG	2.60	2.55	2.57	2.59
Brit Land	6.25	6.12	6.12	6.26
Brit Petm	9.21	9.05	9.17	9.12
BSkyB	4.73	4.69	4.71	4.73
Brit Steel	1.87	1.85	1.87	1.86
Brit Telecom	4.22	4.14	4.16	4.16
BTR	2.39	2.33	2.35	2.37
Burmah Castrol	10.76	10.65	10.68	10.67
Burton Gp	1.36	1.33	1.35	1.34
Cable Wireless	5.35	5.28	5.33	5.34
Cadbury Schw	5.68	5.51	5.66	5.65
Carlton Comm	5.08	5	5.03	5
Comml Union	7.57	7.48	7.50	7.58
Compass Gp	6.53	6.48	6.51	6.48
Courtaulds	3.40	3.35	3.37	3.38
Dixons	6.34	6.26	6.32	6.26
Electrocomponents	4.58	4.52	4.52	4.57
EMI Group	5.93	5.80	5.91	5.83
Energy Group	6.45	6.40	6.43	6.44
Enterprise Oil	6.57	6.42	6.44	6.56
Fam Colonial	1.76	1.75	1.76	1.75
Genl Accident	9.94	9.83	9.90	9.95
GEC	3.90	3.85	3.87	3.87
GKN	13.32	13.18	13.29	13.25
Glaxo Wellcome	13.77	13.54	13.64	13.74
Granada Gp	8.84	8.61	8.76	8.65
Grand Met	5.85	5.75	5.81	5.82
GRE	2.93	2.90	2.92	2.92
Greenalls Gp	4.11	3.98	3.99	4.14
Guinness	5.73	5.62	5.67	5.71
GUS	6.89	6.70	6.87	6.73
Hays	6.77	6.70	6.74	6.70
HSBC Hldgs	19.43	19.15	19.25	19.10
ICI	9.90	9.83	9.86	9.89
Impl Tobacco	3.69	3.65	3.68	3.64
Kingfisher	8	7.89	7.99	7.97
Ladbroke	2.70	2.60	2.62	2.69
Land Sec	9.54	9.48	9.50	9.54
Lasmo	2.68	2.64	2.66	2.68
Legal Genl Grp	4.62	4.56	4.61	4.60
Lloyds TSB Gp	7.76	7.65	7.76	7.73
LucasVarity	2.28	2.24	2.27	2.26
Marks Spencer	6.12	6.06	6.08	6.11
MEPC	5.05	4.97	5.05	4.98
Mercury Asset	12.72	12.40	12.50	12.74
National Grid	2.83	2.73	2.78	2.83
Natl Power	5.53	5.42	5.43	5.52
NatWest	8.59	8.51	8.59	8.56
Next	7.68	7.55	7.57	7.68
Norwich Union	3.36	3.24	3.27	3.30
Orange	2.22	2.18	2.19	2.21
P&O	6.87	6.76	6.79	6.86
Pearson	7.85	7.75	7.83	7.75
Pilkington	1.52	1.48	1.50	1.54
PowerGen	7.70	7.45	7.67	7.47
Premier Farnell	5.24	5.20	5.22	5.24
Prudential	6.35	6.29	6.32	6.33
Railtrack Gp	9.02	8.87	9	8.90
Rank Group	3.65	3.50	3.64	3.54
Reckitt Colm	9.72	9.65	9.70	9.65
Redland	2.81	2.11	2.19	2.83
Reed Intl	5.95	5.83	5.86	5.84
Rentokil Initial	2.58	2.55	2.58	2.56
Reuters Hdgs	6.93	6.84	6.86	6.95
Rexam	3.54	3.36	3.40	3.40
RTZ reg	9.86	9.77	9.80	9.82
RMC Group	9.82	9.70	9.75	10.07
Rolls Royce	2.37	2.34	2.37	2.36
Royal Bk Scot	6.59	6.52	6.58	6.52
Royal & Sun All	5.43	5.29	5.41	5.31
Safeway	3.91	3.84	3.87	3.88
Sainsbury	4.70	4.44	4.64	4.62
Schroders	18.55	18.27	18.50	18.35
Scot Newcastle	7.36	7.16	7.23	7.38
Scot Power	4.53	4.43	4.48	4.49
Securicor	2.68	2.62	2.65	2.63
Severn Trent	8.68	8.59	8.63	8.65
Shell Transp R	4.50	4.42	4.43	4.50
Siebe	11.60	11.48	11.59	11.54
Smith Nephew	1.87	1.85	1.86	1.85
SmithKline	5.77	5.65	5.68	5.74
Smiths Ind	8.83	8.78	8.82	8.82
Sthern Elec	4.60	4.51	4.58	4.56
Stagecoach	6.70	6.62	6.68	6.70
Stand Charter	8.69	8.50	8.63	8.63
Tate & Lyle	4.36	4.25	4.33	4.28
Tesco	4.81	4.75	4.79	4.78
Thames Water	8.22	8.15	8.18	8.19
3i Group	5.18	5.10	5.12	5.17
TI Group	6.09	6	6.06	6.03
Tomkins	3.30	3.28	3.29	3.30
Unilever	18	17.65	17.69	17.93
Utd Assurance	4.90	4.85	4.86	4.85
Utd News	7.66	7.58	7.63	7.59
Utd Utilities	7.16	7.10	7.15	7.12
Vendome Lx uts	4.61	4.48	4.53	4.66
Vodafone	3.32	3.28	3.30	3.32
Whitbread	8	7.82	7.95	7.99
Williams Hdgs	3.70	3.57	3.60	3.66
Wolseley	4.98	4.94	4.96	5.02
WPP Group	2.87	2.82	2.82	2.84
Zeneca	19.95	19.77	19.90	19.89

Madrid — Bolsa index: 623.39, Previous: 629.39

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Acerinox	27880	27150	27310	27530
ACESA	1995	1965	1965	2000
Aguas Barcelon	5990	5900	5950	5950
Argentaria	8580	8490	8500	8580
BBV	4440	4390	4415	4445
Banesto	1545	1525	1535	1525
Bankinter	8470	8370	8380	8450
Bco Centro Hisp	6190	6120	6190	6200
Bco Popular	9700	9410	9440	9710
Bco Santander	4720	4655	4665	4735
CEPSA	4880	4750	4820	4890
Continente	3030	2960	3020	2985
Corp Mapfre	8560	8450	8500	8560
Endesa	3125	3085	3090	3125
FECSA	1275	1240	1240	1275
Gas Natural	7760	7620	7680	7750
Iberdrola	1795	1765	1770	1805
Pryca	2755	2685	2690	2740
Repsol	6480	6430	6450	6490
Sevillana Elec	1410	1390	1410	1410
Tabacalera	10550	10300	10470	10410
Telefonica	4845	4690	4705	4760
Union Fenosa	1280	1265	1280	1285
Valenc Cement	2965	2915	2940	2955

Manila — PSE index: 2065.56, Previous: 2077.84

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ayala B	13.50	13.25	13.50	13.25
Ayala Land	16.75	16.25	16.25	16.75
Bk Philip Isl	108	103	104	109
C&P Homes	3.85	3.60	3.65	3.70
Manila Elec A	75	74	74	75
Metro Bank	345	327.50	332.50	335
Petron	4.45	4.30	4.40	4.50
PCIBank	144	141	144	144
Phil Long Dist	920	905	910	935
San Miguel B	57.50	55.50	57	56
SM Prime Hdg	6.40	6.20	6.40	6.40

Mexico — Bolsa index: 5220.14, Previous: 5210.62

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alfa A	72.00	71.10	72.00	71.20
Banacci B	23.85	23.30	23.85	23.35
Cemex CPO	40.50	39.80	40.50	40.00
Cifra C	16.50	16.16	16.50	16.20
Emp Moderna	42.10	42.00	42.00	42.20
Gpo Carso A1	63.00	62.20	62.60	63.40
Gpo F Bcomer	3.55	3.50	3.51	3.55
Gpo Fin Inburso	34.15	34.00	34.15	34.45
Kimb Clark Mex	37.10	36.90	37.10	37.00
Televisa CPO	146.10	145.90	146.00	146.00
TelMex L	19.54	19.40	19.54	19.50

Milan — MIB Telematico: 15850.00, Previous: 15919.00

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Alleanza Assic	16965	16700	16800	16990
Bca Comm Ital	5005	4960	4990	5035
Bca Fideuram	7800	7530	7775	7680
Bca di Roma	1775	1690	1752	1700
Benetton	29000	28500	28500	28650
Credito Italiano	4440	4215	4390	4235
Edison	9490	9335	9420	9450
ENI	11000	10850	10850	11000
Fiat	6315	6200	6250	6245
Generali Assic	40050	39400	40000	39900
IMI	19475	19205	19430	19550
INA	2750	2725	2725	2770
Italgas	5970	5875	5900	5930
Mediaset	9085	8500	9040	9070
Mediobanca	14100	13900	13950	14050
Montedison	1315	1287	1289	1308
Olivetti	935	926	927	927
Parmalat	2955	2890	2925	2950
Pirelli	5165	5000	5050	5100
RAS	15820	15600	15820	15635
Rolo Banca	25100	24650	24750	24700
S Paolo Torino	13050	12860	12950	12850
Telecom Italia	11845	11490	11500	11780
TIM	7160	6950	6950	7040

Montreal — Industrials index: 3597.84, Previous: 3637.86

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bce Mob Com	49.10	47¾	48½	50
Cdn Tire A	29½	29.40	29½	29.55
Cdn Util A	38.40	38.35	38.40	38.15
CT Finl Svc	44.55	44.10	44.30	44.30
Gaz Metro	18½	18¼	18¼	18.40
Gt-West Lifeco	32.90	32.70	32.90	32.80
Imasco	42.10	41.60	42	41.70
Investors Grp	45	43	44.60	42.35
Loblaw Cos	22	21.60	21.70	21.70
Natl Bk Canada	19.15	19.05	19.05	19.10
Power Corp	40½	39.45	40¼	39.35
Power Finl	41	39.80	40.40	39.90
Quebecor B	25.85	25.60	25.70	25.70
Rogers Comm B	8¾	8¼	8¾	8¼
Royal Bk Cda	69	68¾	68.55	68.60

Oslo — OBX index: 702.75, Previous: 699.57

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Aker A	134	131	132.50	131.50
Bergesen Dy A	218	215	218	215
Christiania Bk	25.10	24.80	24.80	24.80
Den norske Bk	30.10	29.50	29.90	29.50
Elkem	126	123	123	123
Hafslund A	44.50	44	44.50	44
Kvaerner Asa	417	412.50	413	413
Norsk Hydro	423	419.50	421	419.50
Norske Skog A	261	259	259	257
Nycomed A	166.50	164.50	165	166
Orkla Asa A	594	588	592.50	592
Petlm GeoSvc	456	453	455.50	455
Saga Petlm A	151	148	150	147
Schibsted	125	123	124.50	123
Transocean Off	340	340	340	352
Storebrand Asa	53	52	53	52

Paris — CAC-40: 3005.38, Previous: 3023.77

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Accor	1069	1018	1067	1036
AGF	246.10	239.10	239.80	247.40
Air Liquide	985	962	967	976
Alcatel Alsth	789	776	781	783
Axa-UAP	399.50	394.10	396.30	399.40
Bancaire	775	745	755	775
BIC	480	451	455.70	479
BNP	302	293.80	294	298.60
Canal Plus	1065	1054	1058	1063
Carrefour	3695	3610	3610	3685
Casino	susp.	susp.	susp.	susp.
CCF	340.90	335.20	337.10	336
Cetelem	655	643	651	649
Christian Dior	835	821	821	826
CLF-Dexia Fran	564	556	559	564
Credit Agricole	1305	1305	1305	1301
Danone	903	893	898	902
Elf-Aquitaine	822	800	814	811
Eridania BS	890	875	887	891
Eurodisney	8.20	8	8.20	8.10
Eurotunnel	6.65	6.40	6.50	6.65
Gen. Eaux	712	693	702	702
Havas	411	405.10	405.50	413.10
Imetal	800	746	760	787
Lafarge	452	437	447.50	449.60
Legrand	1263	1223	1262	1243
L'Oreal	2385	2326	2350	2396
LVMH	1315	1265	1270	1283
Michelin B	337.10	332	335.50	336
Paribas A	452.10	441.10	442.90	442.10
Pernod Ricard	294.90	290	291.40	293.10
Peugeot Cit	814	799	800	809
Pinault-Print	2799	2771	2777	2700
Promodes	2278	2220	2260	2288
Renault	179	175	176.80	177.20
Rexel	1732	1631	1664	1610
Rh-Poulenc A	245.30	235.60	240.20	239.70
Sanofi	558	548	549	552
Schneider	375.80	368.50	369	363.50
SEB	865	850	854	860
SGS Thomson	573	554	555	582
Ste Generale	855	839	840	853
Sodexho	2867	2781	2822	2806
St Gobain	927	914	918	927
Suez Lyon Eaux	675	661	664	678
Synthelabo	760	735	739	732
Thomson CSF	195	181.20	188	181.50
Total B	701	689	691	700
Usinor	122.30	119.10	121	119
Valeo	397	383.10	385.50	389.60

São Paulo — Bovespa index: 11289.88, Previous: 11482.49

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Bradesco Pfd	10.85	10.60	10.85	10.90
Brahma Pfd	830.00	820.00	820.00	830.00
Cemig Pfd	57.00	56.01	56.60	57.06
CESP Pfd	86.50	83.70	83.10	86.40
Copel	17.00	16.00	17.00	17.40
Eletrobras	570.00	560.00	562.01	570.00
Itaubanco Pfd	650.00	630.00	646.00	630.01
Light Servicios	472.00	465.00	465.80	474.00
Lightpar	380.01	378.00	378.00	380.01
Petrobras Pfd	301.00	294.00	297.00	301.00
Paulista Luz	190.10	189.00	190.00	190.10
Sid Nacional	42.00	41.50	41.50	43.00
Souza Cruz	10.40	10.30	10.40	10.30
Telebras Pfd	137.90	136.50	137.10	137.70
Telemig	163.40	161.00	161.60	163.50
Telerj	144.50	144.00	144.20	144.00
Telesp Pfd	328.00	324.99	325.99	328.00
Unibanco	38.70	38.49	38.49	38.70
Usiminas Pfd	11.81	11.80	11.80	11.90
CVRD Pfd	27.00	26.10	26.30	27.10

Seoul — Composite index: 647.00, Previous: 655.75

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Dacom	83900	80100	80500	82900
Daewoo Heavy	7200	7000	7080	7050
Hyundai Eng.	18400	17700	18000	18200
Kia Motors	6970	6970	6970	7570
Korea El Pwr	19700	19000	19300	19200
Korea Exch Bk	4800	4400	4550	4750
LG Semicon	37500	36800	36900	36400
Pohang Iron St	55000	53500	53800	54600
Samsung Display	44500	43700	44000	44500
Samsung Elec	66800	65500	66000	66800
Shinhan Bank	8000	7300	7330	7930
SK Telecom	410000	397000	409000	397000

Singapore — Straits Times: 1921.09, Previous: 1900.51

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Asia Pac Brew	5.30	5.30	5.30	5.30
Cerebos Pac	5.45	5.25	5.40	5.15
City Devlts	9.70	9.20	9.50	9.10
Cycle Carriage	9.95	9.50	9.80	9.95
Dairy Farm Int*	0.94	0.92	0.92	0.91
DBS foreign	15.30	14.50	14.60	15.40
DBS Land	4	3.66	3.72	3.64
Fraser & Neave	9	8.50	9	8.70
HK Land*	3.32	3.20	3.30	3.22
Jard Matheson*	7.85	7.55	7.70	7.55
Jard Strategic*	3.84	3.80	3.80	3.80
Keppel A	5.80	5.65	5.80	5.65
Keppel Bank	3.14	3.10	3.12	3.10
Keppel Fels	4.18	4.14	4.16	4.14
Keppel Land	3.96	3.70	3.70	3.84
OCBC foreign	10.30	9.95	10.20	10.10
OS Union Bk F	6.80	6.65	6.80	6.60
Parkway Hdgs	5.95	5.75	5.95	6
Sembawang	7	6.80	7	6.90
Sing Air foreign	12.40	11.70	12.40	11.70
Sing Land	7	6.85	6.85	6.80
Sing Press F	21.50	20.80	20.80	21.10
Sing Tech Ind	2.56	2.51	2.53	2.49
Sing Telecomm	2.55	2.44	2.53	2.42
Tat Lee Bank	2.82	2.81	2.81	2.81
Utd Industrial	1.06	1.04	1.06	1.05
Utd O'Sea Bk F	10.50	10.30	10.50	10.40
Wing Tai Hdgs	3.28	3.12	3.14	3

*: In U.S. dollars.

Stockholm — SX 16 index: 3479.19, Previous: 3525.13

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
AGA B	121	118	118.50	120
ABB A	109	105.50	105.50	108.50
AssiDoman	257	251	255.50	253
Astra A	141	138.50	139	140.50
Atlas Copco A	250	246.50	249	247
Autoliv	342	333	336.50	337
Electrolux B	570	561	565	570
Ericsson B	364.50	358.50	360.50	367.50
Hennes B	329	325.50	327	326
Incentive A	734	725	732	728
Investor B	407	402	402	408
MoDo B	285	277.50	278	284
Nordbanken	262	255	257.50	261
Pharm/Upjohn	275	270.50	272.50	274.50
Sandvik B	257	253	253	256
Scania B	233	229	232.50	230.50
SCA B	197	192.50	193	198
S-E Banken A	91.50	90	91	91
Skandia Fors	334	326	332	327
Skanska B	327	321	325	324.50
SKF B	223	219	221	222.50
Sparbanken A	184.50	180.50	182	184.50
Stora A	132.50	127	127.50	131.50
Sv Handels A	258	254	255	256.50
Volvo B	209.50	206.50	207	209

Sydney — All Ordinaries: 2779.20, Previous: 2768.90

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Amcor	9.09	8.80	8.93	8.91
ANZ Bkg	11.51	11.29	11.44	11.40
BHP	16	15.68	15.81	15.73
Boral	4.15	4.08	4.12	4.09
Brambles Ind.	29.85	29.38	29.60	29.46
CBA	17.38	17.09	17.22	17.20
CC Amatil	15.51	14.97	15.41	15.14
Coles Myer	7.04	6.87	6.87	7.10
Comalco	6.85	6.72	6.75	6.78
CSR	5.75	5.55	5.68	5.70
Fosters Brew	2.99	2.96	2.97	2.99
Goodman Fld	2.22	2.14	2.14	2.25
ICI Australia	13.31	12.95	13.05	13.16
Lend Lease	33.67	28.60	32.95	33.76
MIM Hdgs	1.66	1.60	1.63	1.62
Nat Aust Bank	22.45	21.81	22.40	21.98
Nat Mutual Hdg	2.50	2.37	2.42	2.38
News Corp	7.08	6.95	7.01	6.83
Pacific Dunlop	3.83	3.77	3.82	3.80
Pioneer Intl	4.75	4.71	4.71	4.73
Pub Broadcast	9.36	9.01	9.19	9.01
Rio Tinto	20.96	20.68	20.68	20.77
St George Bank	9.04	8.90	8.98	9
WMC	6.25	6.10	6.25	6.10
Westpac Bkg	8.99	8.83	8.83	8.85
Woodside Pet	12.65	12.35	12.42	12.44
Woolworths	4.58	4.44	4.51	4.50

Taipei — Stock Market index: 8791.81, Previous: 8894.02

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Cathay Life Ins	138	132	133.50	134.50
Chang Hwa Bk	114.50	106	106	109
Chiao Tung Bk	81.50	73.50	73.50	78.50
China Develpmt	121	110	111	118
China Steel	28.30	27.50	27.60	27.90
First Bank	113	105	106	107
Formosa Plastic	60.50	58.50	58.50	59.50
Hua Nan Bk	122	113.50	113.50	116
Intl Comm Bk	59	57	57	56.50
Nan Ya Plastics	70.50	69	69	69
Shin Kong Life	90.50	85.50	86	87
Taiwan Semi	144.50	133.50	135	141
Tatung	38.10	36.30	36.30	37.60
Utd Micro Elec	89	81.50	81.50	87.50
Utd World Chin	65	62.50	62.50	62.50

Tokyo — Nikkei 225: 18341.94, Previous: 18428.88

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Ajinomoto	1040	1010	1040	1030
All Nippon Air	729	716	717	723
Amway	3520	3410	3520	3410
Asahi Bank	755	746	755	755
Asahi Chem	606	597	601	604
Asahi Glass	962	952	958	958
Bk Tokyo Mitsu	2300	2240	2300	2260
Bk Yokohama	495	490	495	494
Bridgestone	2970	2910	2950	3010
Canon	3610	3560	3580	3640
Chubu Elec	2090	2060	2060	2120
Chugoku Elec	2010	1960	1970	2020
Dai Nipp Print	2660	2580	2660	2580
Daiei	779	742	750	722
Dai-Ichi Kang	1390	1320	1360	1340
Daiwa Bank	590	553	575	537
Daiwa House	1270	1240	1250	1290
Daiwa Sec	715	700	715	718
DDI	6250a	6200a	6200a	6250a
Denso	2990	2940	2980	2990
East Japan Ry	5640a	5530a	5600a	5650a
Eisai	2260	2240	2240	2260
Fanuc	4870	4710	4760	4900
Fuji Bank	1450	1380	1440	1400
Fuji Photo	5070	4970	5070	4970
Fujitsu	1630	1570	1590	1590
Hachijuni Bk	1190	1170	1180	1190
Hitachi	1100	1060	1080	1100
Honda Motor	4350	4270	4320	4380
IBJ	1490	1420	1470	1420
IHI	320	308	310	320
Itochu	450	431	432	453
Ito-Yokado	6500	6320	6450	6290
JAL	468	453	455	468
Japan Tobacco	9510a	9320a	9450a	9250a
Jusco	2840	2810	2840	2810
Kajima	575	565	565	563
Kansai Elec	2190	2150	2190	2200
Kao	1700	1660	1700	1680
Kawasaki Hvy	435	427	431	433
Kawa Steel	235	231	234	241
Kinki Nipp Ry	687	680	682	694
Kirin Brewery	1010	991	998	1010
Kobe Steel	155	150	152	154
Komatsu	713	685	685	705
Kubota	465	446	450	464
Kyocera	7920	7700	7800	7920
Kyushu Elec	2070	2050	2050	2080
LTCB	595	557	586	556
Marubeni	410	401	401	410
Marui	2040	1970	1980	1980
Matsu Comm	3920	3860	3900	3810
Matsu Elec Ind	2170	2120	2140	2150
Matsu Elec Wk	1340	1190	1300	1250
Mitsubishi	1120	1090	1120	1080
Mitsubishi Ch	305	279	286	306
Mitsubishi El	496	481	487	495
Mitsubishi Est	1760	1720	1740	1740
Mitsubishi Hvy	664	640	660	639
Mitsubishi Mat	650	635	636	635
Mitsubishi Tr	1890	1850	1860	1890
Mitsui	955	916	955	930
Mitsui Fudosn	1550	1520	1540	1550
Mitsui Trust	603	586	598	588
Murata Mfg	5190	5190	5190	4970
NEC	1470	1430	1460	1440
Nikko Sec	2040	1980	1980	2060
Nikon	520	501	506	525
Nintendo	11400	11300	11300	11500
Nipp Express	743	733	733	734
Nippon Oil	543	530	538	537
Nippon Steel	272	261	261	272
Nissan Motor	730	715	724	725
NKK	179	170	172	180
Nomura Sec	1590	1520	1590	1520
NTT	1130b	1100b	1120b	1140b
NTT Data	5340b	5270b	5290b	5330b
Oji Paper	571	550	563	571
Osaka Gas	292	284	287	303
Ricoh	1820	1770	1790	1800
Rohm	14100	14100	14100	14100
Sakura Bk	656	626	650	611
Sankyo	4180	4120	4170	4160
Sanwa Bank	1570	1520	1550	1530
Sanyo Elec	403	394	402	403
Secom	7990	7890	7950	8070
Seibu Rwy	5050	4990	4990	5050
Sekisui Chem	909	896	897	887
Sekisui House	1170	1130	1130	1160
Seven-Eleven	9220	9100	9220	9200
Sharp	1150	1120	1140	1150
Shikoku El Pwr	1980	1970	1970	1980
Shimizu	578	568	573	587
Shin-etsu Ch	3330	3230	3330	3300
Shiseido	1960	1920	1950	1910
Shizuoka Bk	1280	1260	1280	1300
Softbank	4980	4810	4930	4900
Sony	11700	11400	11600	11500
Sumitomo	912	901	902	914
Sumitomo Bk	1870	1830	1850	1820
Sumit Chem	450	436	441	449
Sumitomo Elec	1750	1710	1730	1770
Sumit Metal	257	251	253	263
Sumit Trust	1270	1230	1260	1220
Taisho Pharm	3160	3100	3120	3180
Takeda Chem	3580	3500	3580	3540
TDK	11100	10500	11100	10700
Tohoku El Pwr	2020	1980	2020	2020
Tokai Bank	986	965	983	980
Tokio Marine	1480	1430	1470	1470
Tokyo El Pwr	2350	2330	2340	2360
Tokyo Electron	7650	7450	7510	7560
Tokyo Gas	292	286	292	294
Tokyu Corp.	604	589	589	611
Tonen	1160	1120	1130	1160
Toppan Print	1690	1630	1690	1690
Toray Ind	744	725	731	719
Toshiba	644	607	615	653
Tostem	1890	1840	1870	1840
Toyo Trust	985	964	964	980
Toyota Motor	3700	3630	3700	3760
Yamanouchi	2970	2910	2940	2910

a: x 100; b: x 1,000

Toronto — TSE Industrials: 6983.80, Previous: 7011.82

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Abitibi Cons.	24.30	24.05	24.10	24.10
Alberta Energy	33½	33.10	33.40	33.35
Alcan Alum	48.20	47.55	47.65	47.85
Anderson Expl	17.10	16.95	17.10	17
Bk Montreal	60.15	59½	59.55	59.85
Bk Nova Scotia	65.35	64.60	64.90	65½
Barrick Gold	32.70	31½	32.55	31½
BCE	42.40	41½	41.90	42.20
BC Telecomm	35.90	35¾	35.85	35.85
Biochem Pharm	43.90	43	43.05	43.05
Bombardier B	27.90	27.65	27.70	27.85
Cameco	50½	49½	50.10	50
CIBC	40.90	40.10	40.30	40.95
Cdn Natl Rail	71½	71.10	71.15	71½
Cdn Nat Res	41¾	41.40	41¼	41.85
Cdn Occid Pet	36.90	36.40	36½	36.80
Cdn Pacific	42	40½	40½	41.90
Cominco	32.40	31.90	32.05	32.10
Dofasco	28.20	27.80	27.90	28.15
Domtar	12	11.85	11.85	11.80
Donohue A	32¼	32¼	32½	32.80
Du Pont Cda A	34½	34.20	34.45	34.30
EdperBrascan	23.90	23.55	23.60	23.90
EuroNev Mng	23	22.60	22.70	22½
Fairfax Finl	393	388	388	393
Falconbridge	24.60	24.40	24½	24.95
Fletcher Chall A	22¼	21½	22	22.60
Franco Nevada	30¼	29.80	30¼	30½
Gulf Cda Res	12.90	12	12.80	12.35
Imperial Oil	81.30	78.55	78.55	80.30
Inco	33.20	32.65	32.90	33.15
IPL Energy	54¼	53.45	54.15	53.80
Laidlaw B	21.90	21½	21.60	21.95
Loewen Group	38¼	37.65	37.90	38.10
Macmill Bldl	20.30	19.60	19.85	20.30
Magna Intl A	95.45	93	95	93.60
Methanex	12.60	11.95	12	12.40
Moore	26½	25	25.60	27.45
Newbridge Net	87¼	85.05	85.40	85.95
Noranda Inc	26.90	26.55	26.60	26.60
Norcen Energy	35	34.70	34.70	35
Nthern Telecom	145	143½	144.20	144½
Nova	11.55	11.45	11.45	11.45
Onex	36½	35.90	36½	35¼
Pancdn Petlm	25½	25¼	25¼	25¾
Petro Cda	24.85	24½	24.60	24¾
Placer Dome	24.35	23.20	24.30	23
Poco Petlm	13.35	13	13.15	13.30
Potash Sask	104½	103.30	103.85	104.45
Renaissance	35.35	35	35¼	35.20
Rio Algom	30	29.70	29.80	30.10
Rogers Cantel B	25½	24¼	24¼	24.80
Seagram Co	49.70	48.80	48.90	49.40
Shell Cda A	23.60	23.40	23½	23.45
Suncor	47½	47	47.30	47¼
Talisman Eny	46.60	46.10	46¼	46¼
Teck B	26.15	25.40	25.95	25.95
Teleglobe	50.05	49¾	49.90	50.10
Telus	29.45	29.30	29.35	29½
Thomson	34.60	34	34.60	34.15
TorDom Bank	47¾	47¼	47.40	47.70
Transalta	18.15	18	18.10	18.10
TransCda Pipe	27.05	26.85	26.95	27.05
Trimark Finl	80.20	79.05	79½	80
Trizec Hahn	35	34.55	34.60	34.85
TVX Gold	7¼	7.20	7.70	7.10
Westcoast Eny	28.85	28.60	28¾	28.70
Weston	109½	108½	109½	109

Vienna — ATX index: 1419.17, Previous: 1420.21

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Boehler-Uddeh	1045.30	1030	1045	1038
Creditanst Pfd	637.90	631	634	634.20
EA-Generali	3299.30	3180	3299.30	3219
EVN	1503	1460	1494	1489
Flughafen Wien	518.20	513	517	516.90
OMV	1846	1810	1827.90	1849
Oest Elektriz	879.60	873.10	877	875.50
VA Stahl	603.40	600	603	603.50
VA Tech	2678	2646	2660	2660
Wienerberg Bau	2610	2587	2610	2603

Wellington — NZSE-40 index: 2565.58, Previous: 2551.22

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
Air N Zeald B	4.03	3.95	4.03	4.03
Brierly Invt	1.34	1.33	1.33	1.33
Carter Holt ord	3.40	3.39	3.39	3.39
Fletch Ch Bldg	5.10	5.03	5.04	5
Fletch Ch Eny	7.10	6.90	7.09	6.95
Fletch Ch Forst	1.96	1.95	1.95	1.96
Fletch Ch Paper	3.09	3.08	3.09	3.09
Lion Nathan	3.93	3.85	3.93	3.83
Telecom NZ	8.12	8.01	8.10	8.04
Wilson Horton	11.45	11.45	11.45	11.50

Zurich — SPI index: 3623.86, Previous: 3661.72

	High	Low	Close	Prev.
ABB B	2170	2125	2125	2169
Adecco B	559	545	556	554
Alusuisse R	1379	1351	1351	1372
Ares-Serono B	2385	2340	2380	2370
Atel R	834	834	834	838
Baer Hdg B	2230	2200	2200	2225
Baloise Hdg R	2094	2070	2074	2092
BK Vision	1196	1185	1190	1200
Ciba Spec Chem	143.75	141	142	142.50
Clariant R	1187	1176	1177	1187
Crd Suisse Gp R	198.25	190	193.75	198.50
Elektrowatt B	537	535	537	536
Ems-Chemie	6925	6870	6890	6900
ESEC Hdg	3980	3950	3950	3996
Holderbank B	1333	1311	1319	1314
Liechtenst LB B	570	570	570	573
Nestle R	2069	2036	2040	2052
Novartis R	2279	2224	2245	2269
Oerlikn Buehr R	186.50	182	186.50	184
Pargesa Hld B	1930	1915	1915	1920
PharmVisn B	902	883	893	899
Richemont A	1989	1965	1977	2000
Pirelli PC	334	328	331	332
Roche Hdg PC	13520	13150	13150	13460
SBC R	392.50	388.50	389.50	389.50
Schindler PC	1815	1795	1800	1815
SGS B	2545	2480	2480	2530
SMH B	865	849	855	852
Sulzer R	1097	1080	1080	1080
Swiss Reins R	2198	2150	2164	2195
SAir Group R	1960	1922	1935	1960
UBS B	1669	1647	1659	1664
Winterthur R	1432	1391	1391	1431
Zurich Assur R	627	619	625	623

NASDAQ

Thursday's 4 P.M.

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The Associated Press.

NYSE

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Eckehard Stutz/AP

Martina Hingis hitting a return to Sabine Appelmans of Belgium at the Leipzig Open.

Hingis Advances At Leipzig Open

TENNIS Martina Hingis of Switzerland and defending champion Anke Huber of Germany breezed to easy victories on Thursday at the $450,000 Leipzig Open.

Hingis, the world's top-ranked women's player, had little trouble against Sabine Appelmans of Belgium in a 6-3, 6-2 victory that put her into the semifinals.

Huber, who won the title in 1995 and 1996, climbed into the quarterfinals with a 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Magui Serna of Spain and set up a meeting against Iva Majoli of Croatia, the world's fourth-ranked player.

Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, ranked sixth in the world, also reached the quarterfinals with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Magdalena Maleeva. *(AP)*

Rafter Overpowers Rios At Grand Slam Cup

TENNIS The reigning U.S. Open champion Patrick Rafter gained the semifinals of the lucrative Compaq Grand Slam Cup on Thursday by powering his way past Marcelo Rios of Chili.

Rafter, who raised his earnings thus far at the tournament to $675,000, was almost untouchable on his serve as he beat the world's seventh-ranked player, 6-1, 7-6 (7-0). Rafter has won $1.3 million over the past month, and has shot from a No. 63 ranking at the start the year to No. 3 currently.

Petr Korda of the Czech Republic also reached the semis with a 7-5, 6-3 triumph over Cedric Pioline of France. *(AP)*

Klinsmann Is Sidelined

SOCCER The German striker Juergen Klinsmann has torn ligaments in his right ankle and will be out of action for at least a month, his Italian club Sampdoria said on Thursday.

Klinsmann, who joined the serie A team at the beginning of the season, damaged his ankle in training earlier this week. He had X-rays on Wednesday, and doctors put his leg in a cast. The doctors confirmed that Klinsmann would be sidelined until late October and would thus miss Germany's World Cup qualifier against Albania in Hannover on Oct. 11.

Klinsmann has yet to score a goal in a competitive match for the Italian team and has turned in several lackluster performances. But, playing for the German national team earlier this month, he ended a long goal drought and marked his 100th cap by scoring twice in a 4-0 defeat of Armenia. *(AP)*

A Disparity in Talent Will Swing It — Maybe

Form Book Tips U.S. Side to Win, But This Golf Defies Usual Rules

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

SOTOGRANDE, Spain — Teams in other sports usually do what's expected of them. When will the Ryder Cup learn to behave?

It makes no sense to think that Europe will win the 32d Ryder Cup this weekend. Its best players seem too old, and these young people today they just aren't hungry.

I just heard a Scottish writer picking the Americans to win because they have the better putters. Almost every way you look at it it comes out the same. Of the top 13 players in the world, eight will be representing the United States compared with just one from Europe, Colin Montgomerie (it's always Colin Montgomerie). If this were soccer, basketball, American football, volleyball, handball, netball, team table tennis — even Davis Cup tennis, which is the closest of all equivalents — it would be like throwing away money to bet on a close result, never mind a European victory.

Yet, the Ryder Cup refuses to heed such warnings. Fans and sportswriters

THE RYDER CUP

who have grown jaded about other pro sports approach the Ryder Cup almost reverentially, as if it were some kind of spiritual retreat for three days. It teaches humility to those who need it most and rewards performers who go unnoticed, or at least unappreciated, in other competitions. What was it about someone like Philip Walton, the least renowned of the 24 players, that could allow him to become one of the principal heroes of the European victory two years ago? Obviously, there was something more to him than anyone would have thought. In any other sport Philip Walton never gets up off the bench.

Alas, this weekend is going to test the mystical qualities of the Ryder Cup. The suspicion is that the myth is going to crack, melt and seep into the velvety fairways, leaving the Ryder Cup beholden to the same plain factors that govern other sporting events.

For the first half-century, remember, the Ryder Cup was as one-sided as most Super Bowls. Great Britain & Ireland had won the biennial tournament just four times through 1977. It began to change when players throughout Europe were brought in. By 1985 Seve Ballesteros of Spain had swung his side to a breakthrough 16½-11½ victory. Europe has won or retained the cup in four of the last six meetings, including the last time at Oak Hill in New York, when the visitors overcame an enormous 9-7 deficit on the final day of singles — the final clinching hole going to Walton of Ireland.

That upset seemed to affirm the upside-down values of the Ryder Cup: That it is better to come from behind on the final day, as the last two winners have done, and it is of no help being the home team, because the last two have lost. Whenever players think they ought to win a particular match, that everything's in their favor, that's when many start playing like losers. The pressures are emphasized by their unfamiliarity with match play, and especially with the doubles format over the first two days, and with the newfound responsibility of playing for team and country. If golfers seem unusually singleminded and telescopic at all other times, then the Ryder Cup has the effect of being fitted with kaleidoscopic glasses.

An extra, unpredicted benefit for the Europeans has been the cultural makeup of their team. This year their 12 players represent 10 nationalities or provinces. (Remarkably, only five of the Europeans are British). Each one will feel as if he is something of a national champion, representing his own particular country, with the fans back home caring much more strongly about his performance than, say, Rhode Islanders will be rallying around Brad Faxon. This sense of nationalistic pride, magnified, has helped bring out the best in the Europeans.

Unfortunately for them, they are also about to realize another crucial factor. The generation of Ballesteros (who no longer plays at the highest level and is representing Europe as the nonplaying captain), Nick Faldo, Ian Woosnam and Bernhard Langer are all 39 or 40. They were driven by a need to prove themselves against the United States, above and beyond the 14 major titles they won. Their European descendants clearly have not set their sights as high.

In a way, the best result for the European Tour might be a drubbing by the U.S. this weekend. It would create a sense of urgency that has been lacking on the European Tour in recent years.

"We have forgotten how to win because we have it too easy on our tour," Jack Nicklaus said in 1987 after the U.S. had its second successive Ryder Cup defeat. "We had some matches we could have won, but the European players are tougher. Because of the all-exempt tour now, our guys don't find themselves in a position to win very often."

Nicklaus's complaints have been reversed in the last decade. Today it is the United States with the tougher tour, a weekly competition led by Tiger Woods and other young hungry players that has left the Americans in the best possible shape The Europeans, by comparison, simply haven't put in the same kind of work — they have it much "too easy" on their tour, they play some awfully poor courses in front of small crowds, and results in the major championships of recent years stand as proof that they no longer are quite so driven to prove themselves against the Americans.

This might be a frustrating week for Ballesteros. He will have to be careful about asking for too much from his four older Europeans (including Costantino Rocca, also 40) and Jose Maria Olazabal, who is still recovering from the foot problems that sidelined him for 18 months. Yet, what other choice will he have? Among his other seven players, with apologies to Montgomerie, there is not one major champion.

Ballesteros pointed out the difficulties Thursday in trying to predict the outcome of the doubles matches, which will account for more than half of the points this weekend. "In fourballs and even in foursomes, in my own experience over the years, you look at pairs and say for sure we will win one point here, two points, three points — and then everything comes out the total opposite way," he said after announcing his opening pairings.

He said he had woken up at 5:15 A.M. Thursday to finalize his choices. "Being captain there is much more pressure," Ballesteros said. "When I am playing in a major I don't remember I'm waking up at 4 o'clock in the morning." By comparison, the U.S. captain, Tom Kite, claimed he had made his decisions comfortably two days before.

Maybe the format of the Ryder Cup will hide the disparity between the two teams, much as it seemed to in 1995. It might be, by Ryder Cup standards, that there is no disparity. More likely is that the outcome will reflect the preparation of both sides — as it did for the first 50 years, as it did when Nicklaus was complaining 10 years ago. If so, the last Ryder Cup might have been the last hurrah.

Eric Gaillard/The Associated Press

U.S. Ryder Cup player Scott Hoch practicing at Valderrama golf course.

Europe's Ryder Tactic: Seize the Early Lead

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

SOTOGRANDE, Spain — Europe is going to seize the early lead or go down trying. Or so says Seve Ballesteros.

When the 32d Ryder Cup opens Friday morning he will send out all but one of his aged or vulnerable major champions.

Tom Kite, the U.S. nonplaying captain, emphasized the superior depth of his team by shying away from his strongest pairings for the opening round. Those matches will account for only four of the 28 points available through Sunday, but nonetheless, Ballesteros's choices confirmed that he would depend on his most famous names to win the 14 points Europe needs to retain the cup.

"These are the pairings that in my opinion will be the most experienced ones, the ones that give me the most confidence," Ballesteros said. If the Americans gain the advantage immediately it will be an omen for the hosts.

Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain will play in the opening best-ball match alongside Costantino Rocca of Italy. Rocca had asked for the first match because he likes to play fast, but Ballesteros will probably want to give Olazabal as much time as possible to rest should he be assigned to play again in the foursomes Friday afternoon.

Olazabal, 31, was considering retirement before his comeback this year from debilitating foot problems.

Nick Faldo, appearing in a record 11th consecutive Ryder Cup, was paired with his fellow Englishman Lee Westwood, a Ryder Cup rookie. In the last of the four groups will be the odd couple of Colin Montgomerie, who has complained loudly and repeatedly about slow play on the European Tour, and Bernhard Langer, the 40 year old German who is the most famously slow player in the world.

"It is a good question," Ballesteros said Thursday when asked about the apparent conflict. "We all know how Langer plays. I always thought if I put Langer in the first match at 9 o'clock in the morning, we will all probably miss lunch."

The timing means that Langer will not be expected to play in the afternoon foursomes. Ian Woosnam, who has had the least reliable season of Europe's major champions, will be expected to play in the afternoon, along with Faldo and Montgomerie. The question is whether Ballesteros can coax four or five strong rounds from his best players. He confirmed that he plans to use his other, less-renowned players at least once Friday or Saturday.

Kite, surprisingly, declined to start the British Open champion Justin Leonard, who has been one of the hottest American players this summer. Kite also broke up the successful pairing of Davis Love 3d and Fred Couples, but that doesn't mean they won't play together in the afternoon foursomes (in which partners play alternate shots with one shared ball) or Saturday, when the doubles formats will be repeated.

Tiger Woods and his friendly adviser Mark O'Meara were paired at their request.

Golf's greatest team event — widely thought to be one of the great sporting events in the world — will conclude Sunday with 12 singles matches involving everyone on both teams. The Americans must finish with at least 14½ points to take the Ryder Cup.

Here are the opening fourballs for Friday morning with the U.S. pairings listed first: Love and Phil Mickelson vs. Olazabal and Rocca; Couples and Brad Faxon vs. Faldo and Westwood; Tom Lehman and Jim Furyk vs. the Swedish pairing of Jesper Parnevik and Per-Ulrik Johansson; and Woods and O'Meara vs. Montgomerie and Langer, which, come to think of it, is an especially "odd couple," in that both seem to represent Felix and neither is Oscar.

Sportscaster Confesses to Sex Assault

Plea-Bargain Deal Gets Albert Out of A Higher Charge

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Virginia — The U.S. sportscaster Marv Albert, whose distinctive voice and snappy play-by-play delivery have been familiar to millions of basketball, hockey and football fans for more than 25 years, pleaded guilty Thursday to assault and battery after prosecutors agreed to drop a charge of forcible sodomy. The move cut short a trial that had bared Albert's sex life.

In making the plea, Albert spoke in a somber and low tone, telling Circuit Judge Benjamin Kendrick that he had done what he was charged with doing last Feb. 12 to a woman in an Arlington hotel room. The woman, a longtime lover, said Albert had suddenly become angry, thrown her down on the bed and repeatedly bitten her back, then forced her to perform oral sex.

Albert's family and other supporters sat stoically in three rows of the courtroom, showing no visible reaction. His fiancee, Heather Faulkner, sat with her hands clasped in her lap.

Sentencing was set for Oct. 24. Albert could receive up to 12 months in jail and a $2,500 fine for the single misdemeanor count. The dropped charge, a felony, could have brought him five years to life.

Albert entered the plea a day after damaging testimony from a second woman who said he bit her during a sexual advance. The trial, which began Monday, included testimony that the popular sports broadcaster was fond of engaging in three-way sex, watching pornographic videos and wearing women's underwear.

After the brief court session, Albert said the plea halted "an endless ordeal for myself, my wonderful family" and other supporters, and he thanked NBC. The network, which had kept Albert on the air after he was charged, had no immediate comment on the guilty plea.

Albert entered the plea without reaching an agreement on a recommended sentence with the Arlington County Commonwealth's Attorney, Richard Trodden. Albert had turned down the same plea-bargain offer before the trial, Trodden said.

Albert's 42-year-old accuser had approved the plea arrangement, Trodden said. The prosecutor also said the testimony Wednesday by another woman, a former hotel employee, Patricia Masden, was of "profound" significance in reaching the deal.

Albert's chief attorney, Roy Black, was clearly caught off guard when Masden, a former friend of Albert's, testified that Albert had bitten her and tried to force her to perform oral sex.

She said that in 1994, Albert had lured her to his room in the Dallas-Fort Worth Hyatt hotel with a request for assistance.

She said he greeted her wearing women's panties and a garter belt and tried to force her to perform oral sex on him. She said she ripped off his toupee and fled from him.

Defense attorneys had fought to bar the testimony Wednesday, but the judge allowed it to show what prosecutors said was a pattern of conduct by Albert.

Masden said she got to know Albert well during the early 1990s when he traveled with the New York Knicks and she was the VIP liaison for Hyatt Hotels. She said he summoned her to his room in Dallas, saying he needed help sending a fax.

When she entered Albert's room and announced her presence, she heard him say, "Come on in."

"I turned around and I saw him standing there. I saw him standing there in white panties and garter belt. He was exposed and he was aroused," she said.

She said she stood there in shock as Albert approached her and began to rub against her.

As she tried to push Albert off her, she said, "I went to grab his hair and his hair lifted off. He immediately put his hands on his hair and I ran out of the room."

Jimenez Takes Vuelta Stage

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES DE SAN RAFAEL, Spain — Jose Maria Jimenez of Spain edged out two of his countrymen to claim the 19th stage of the Tour of Spain on Thursday.

Jimenez, a member of the Banesto team, beat Daniel Clavero and Roberto Heras by a margin of one second at the end of the mountainous, 184-kilometer (114-mile) route from Valladolid to Los Angeles de San Rafael. His time was 4 hours, 31 minutes, 38 seconds.

Alex Zulle of Switzerland retained the leader's yellow jersey with an overall lead of 2 minutes, 46 seconds over Fernando Escartin of Spain.

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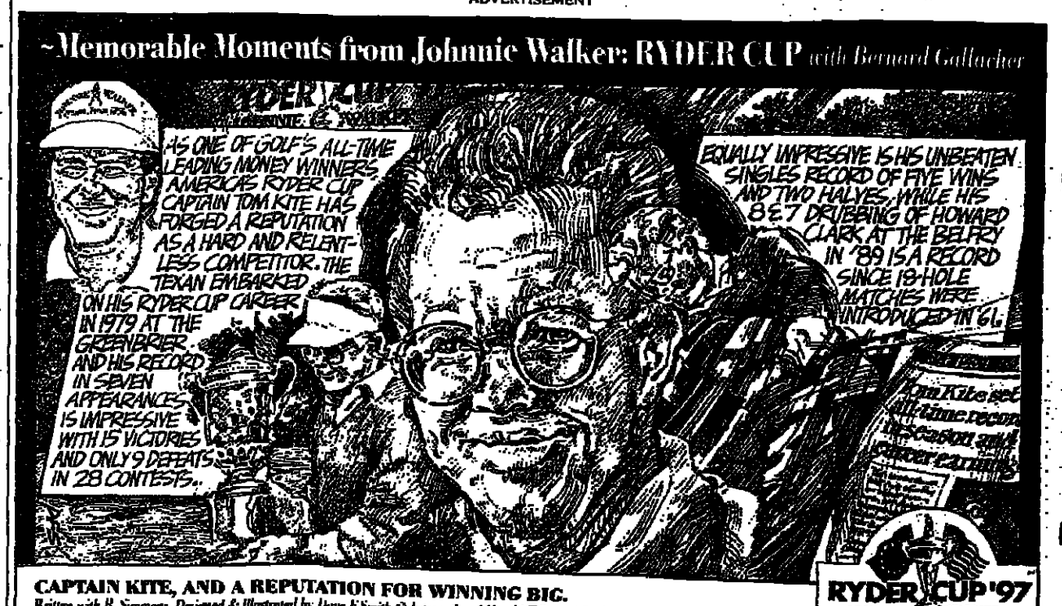

CAPTAIN KITE, AND A REPUTATION FOR WINNING BIG.
Written with B. Simmons, Designed & Illustrated by Dave F. Smith © International Herald Tribune / Professional Sports Partnerships Ltd.

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SPORTS

McGwire Hits His 55th, but Cards Lose to Reds Anyway

The Associated Press

Mark McGwire hit his 55th homer and just missed another one, but St. Louis lost to Cincinnati, 5-4. McGwire pulled to within six homers of Roger Maris's record with four games left.

His two-run homer in the fifth inning on Wednesday night in St. Louis off

NL Roundup

Dave Burba (11-10) ended a string of 19 plate appearances without a homer. McGwire has homered in 11 straight series, and has hit 12 in September.

He has hit 107 homers in the last two seasons, breaking Jimmie Foxx's two-season record for a right-handed hitter.

Cubs 3, Astros 1 The Houston Astros, having been assured a tie for the division title moments earlier, missed a chance to clinch the Central Division by losing to the visiting Cubs.

Houston's magic number was cut to one when second-place Pittsburgh lost to the New York Mets, 7-3.

Brooks Kieschnick and Tyler Houston hit solo home runs for the Cubs.

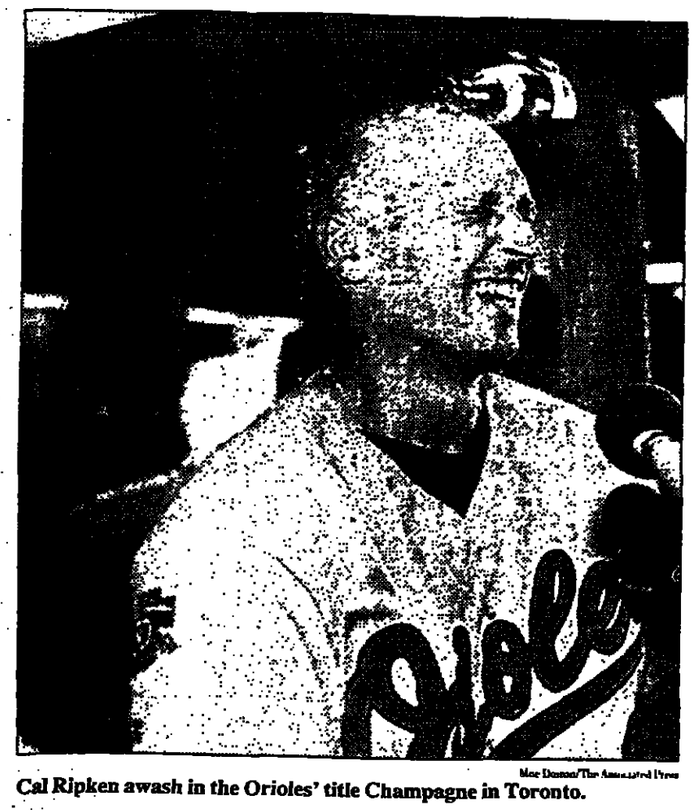
Giants 4, Rockies 3 In Denver, Brian Johnson hit his second game-winning home run in seven days as the San Francisco Giants moved closer to the Western Division title.

The Giants' magic number for clinching the division was cut to two following Los Angeles's 4-1 loss to San Diego.

Johnson, who beat the Dodgers with a homer in the 15th inning last Thursday, broke a 3-3 tie with his 11th homer of the season off the Colorado reliever Steve Reed (4-6).

Padres 4, Dodgers 1 Ken Caminiti hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the fifth inning as visiting San Diego damaged the Dodgers' playoff hopes.

The Dodgers, who have lost 11 of 15, will finish their season with four games at Colorado. San Francisco has three games left, all at home against San Diego.



Mac Donnan/The Associated Press

Cal Ripken awash in the Orioles' title Champagne in Toronto.

Tony Gwynn, trying for his eighth NL batting championship, went 2-for-4 to increase his average to .374. He is eight points ahead of Colorado's Larry Walker, who went 1-for-4 against the Giants.

Mets 7, Pirates 5 Pittsburgh moved to the brink of elimination in the Central Division, as John Olerud hit a grand slam in a six-run sixth inning in New York.

Joe Randa's RBI single off Joe Crawford (3-3) put Pittsburgh ahead in the third. But Olerud, who tied a career high with five RBIs, singled home the tying run in the fifth.

Phillies 5 Braves 1 Garrett Stephenson pitched a four-hitter as host Philadelphia defeated Atlanta.

Stephenson (8-6) allowed only two runners past first base in his second complete game of the year. His other complete game also was against Atlanta, an 8-1 victory on July 15.

The right-hander retired the first 11 batters before Randall Simon hit a shot back to the mound that glanced off Stephenson's right arm for an infield hit.

Marlins 10, Expos 9 Russ Morman hit a two-run homer and three Montreal errors keyed a seven-run first inning that carried visiting Florida over the Expos.

Florida, which clinched the wild card spot Tuesday, played without a regular in its starting lineup. But the Marlins still sent 13 men to the plate in the first, knocking Carlos Perez out after a third of an inning.

Morman, who has spent parts of nine seasons in the majors, hit his 10th career homer — and his first since 1995 — off Perez (12-13) in the first for a 4-0 lead.

Wire to Wire, Orioles in First

The Associated Press

If the Baltimore Orioles are looking for something to build on as they head into postseason play for the second successive year, they might want to consider their incredible season.

"Wire-to-wire — it's kind of mind boggling," Cal Ripken said Wednesday night after the Orioles defeated the Blue Jays in Toronto, 9-3, to clinch the American League East title and become just the sixth team in major league history to lead their division for an entire season.

The Orioles, who last won the American League East title in 1983, join the 1927 New York Yankees, the 1984 Detroit Tigers, the 1990 Cincinnati Reds, the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers and the 1923 New York Giants as the only teams in history to hold down first place from opening day.

The Orioles will play the Seattle Mariners in the first round of the playoffs.

Sealing their triumph, Rafael Palmeiro hit his 38th homer, a two-run shot to right in the seventh inning, and drove in four runs as the Orioles scored five runs in the sixth.

B.J. Surhoff's RBI double got the Orioles started, and Palmeiro followed with a sacrifice fly.

Lenny Webster doubled to score Surhoff, then came in on a wild pitch before Roberto Alomar, wearing No. 43 on his hat in honor of Cito Gaston, who was fired earlier in the day as Blue Jays manager, capped the inning with a run-scoring double. Alomar played for Gaston and the Blue Jays before he joined the Orioles as a free agent.

Surhoff added a run-scoring fielder's choice in the eighth and scored on Palmeiro's double for a 9-3 lead.

Yankees 8, Indians 4 Dwight Gooden improved his career record against Cleveland to 5-0 as the visiting Yankees beat their coming playoff opponent. Gooden (9-5) allowed four runs and seven hits in seven innings.

AL Roundup

Red Sox 9, Tigers 2 Tim Wakefield allowed four hits in seven-plus innings and Mo Vaughn hit a two-run homer off the right-field roof as Boston beat host Detroit.

Scott Hatteberg and Darren Bragg each had three hits and two RBIs.

Twins 7, White Sox 2 Frank Rodriguez took a shutout into the eighth inning and Matt Lawton and Marty Cardova each drove in two runs as Minnesota beat host Chicago.

Rodriguez (3-6) pitched seven-plus innings, allowing five hits and two runs.

Angels 9, Mariners 3 Ken Griffey Jr., batting leadoff at his own request, failed to hit a home run in three at-bats before he made an early exit as the AL West champion Mariners lost to the visiting Angels.

Griffey grounded out in the first inning and was called out on strikes in the third. In the fifth, he hit a drive to the warning track in right-center, with the ball falling a few feet short of the fence.

Brewers 4, Royals 3 Darrin Jackson's bases-loaded bunt with two out in the 15th inning brought home the winning run for host Milwaukee. The game lasted 4 hours and 53 minutes.

Fernando Vina led off the 15th with a single off Jeff Montgomery (1-4), moved to second on Jeff Cirillo's groundout and went to third on Gerald Williams's sacrifice fly. After Julio Franco and Jeromy Burnitz walked, Jackson bunted down the third-base line and slid in safely at first ahead of Dean Palmer's throw.

Rangers 8, Athletics 4 Darren Oliver pitched eight strong innings, and Juan Gonzalez drove in a pair of runs as Texas defeated host Oakland.

Gonzalez had a sacrifice fly and a run-scoring single to give him 128 RBIs this season.

Fernando Tatis and Lee Stevens added RBI singles for Texas. Tom Goodwin stole home and had a sacrifice fly, and the Rangers scored two runs on Oakland errors.

Ravanelli Signs With Olympique Marseille

Reuters

LONDON — The Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli ended speculation about his future by signing a four-year contract with the French first division club Olympique Marseille on Thursday.

His previous club, Middlesbrough, confirmed that the deal, worth £5.35 million ($8.6 million), had gone through.

The news ended months of speculation that began when Middlesbrough, beaten as finalists in both the League Cup and the FA Cup, were relegated from the English premier league at the end of last season.

Ravanelli, who scored 31 goals for them during the 1996-97 season after his high-profile transfer from Juventus, made it clear that he did not wish to play for the club in a lower league.

Middlesbrough's manager, Bryan Robson, did not attempt to hide his relief that the Italian had finally gone. "I am pleased the deal has gone through," he said. "Now that Fabrizio has found a new club, my players can get on with the job without all the media attention that he attracted."

Ravanelli's availability had attracted several clubs, but many were put off by the amount of the transfer fee or by Ravanelli's personal demands.

Liverpool shied away from the original £7.5 million asking price, while its Merseyside neighbor, Everton, was also keen to secure his services.

After being dropped by Italy for a recent qualifying match against Georgia, however, it seemed likely that Ravanelli would make a move to a top club so that he could press his claims for a place in the 1998 World Cup in France.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

Major League Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Baltimore	96	62	.608	—
w-New York	92	66	.582	4
Detroit	79	79	.500	17
Boston	77	81	.487	19
Toronto	72	86	.456	24
CENTRAL DIVISION				
x-Cleveland	84	72	.538	—
Chicago	77	80	.490	7½
Milwaukee	77	80	.490	7½
Minnesota	66	91	.420	18½
Kansas City	65	92	.414	19½
WEST DIVISION				
x-Seattle	89	70	.560	—
Anaheim	83	75	.525	5½
Texas	74	84	.468	14½
Oakland	63	96	.396	26

x-wondivision title; w-won wild card

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Atlanta	99	59	.627	—
w-Florida	92	66	.582	7
New York	86	73	.541	13½
Montreal	76	82	.481	23
Philadelphia	65	93	.411	34
CENTRAL DIVISION				
Houston	81	77	.513	—
Pittsburgh	78	81	.491	3½
Cincinnati	73	85	.462	8
St. Louis	71	87	.449	10
Chicago	67	91	.424	14
WEST DIVISION				
San Francisco	88	71	.553	—
Los Angeles	85	73	.539	2½
Colorado	82	76	.519	5½
San Diego	75	84	.472	13

x-won division title, w-won wild card

WEDNESDAY'S LINESCORES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

New York 400 301 000—8 13 0
Cleveland 001 021 000—4 9 0
Gooden, Lloyd (8), Mendoza (9) and Posada; Br.Anderson, Colon (5), A. Lopez (7), Plesac (9) and S. Alomar, Diaz (6). W—Gooden, 9-5. L—Br.Anderson, 4-2. HRs—New York, Raines (4), Jeter (10), Posada (5). Cleveland, Manto (1).

Boston 001 032 200—9 15 0
Detroit 100 000 010—2 5 1
Wakefield, Brandenburg (8) and Hatteberg, Varitek (9); Blair, Duran (6), McMyers (7), Jarvis (9) and Casanova, Jensen (8). W—Wakefield, 12-15. L—Blair, 16-8. HRs—B. M. Vaughn (34), D. Fryman (21).

Baltimore 000 005 202—9 12 0
Toronto 000 200 100—3 7 1
Kamieniecki, Orosco (8), Ro.Myers (9) and Webster; Doal, Crabtree (6), Risley (6), Almanzar (8), Escobar (9), Robinson (9) and D. Santiago. W—Kamieniecki, 10-6. L—Doal, 1-1. HRs—Baltimore, R.Palmeiro (38). Toronto, Cruz Jr (26), Samuel (2).

Minnesota 201 020 010—7 11 2
Chicago 000 000 020—2 7 0
Fr.Rodriguez, Guardado (8), Ritchie (8), Aguilera (9) and D.Miller; Baldwin, Fordham (6), J. Darwin (9) and Fabregas, Machado (9). W—Fr.Rodriguez, 3-4. L—Baldwin, 12-15. Sv—Aguilera (26). HRs—Minnesota, M. Cordova (14).

Royals 100 001 100 000—3 10 0
Brewers 100 002 000 000—3 12 1
15 innings

Belcher, Service (7), Olson (9), Whisenant (11), Bevil (12), J.Montgomery (14) and Mackanin; Ma.Sweeney (7); A. Stewart (11); Fiorie, Hamisch (4), Davis (5), Wickman (7), Do.Jones (8), Fetters (12), Wagner (15) and Stirnweis, Matheny (8). W—Wagner, 1-0. L—J. Montgomery, 1-4. HRs—Kansas City, Palmer (23). Milwaukee, Vina (4), Ju.Franco (7).

Texas 111 000 041—8 13 0
Oakland 100 000 003—4 7 4
D.Oliver, Patterson (9) and I. Rodriguez; Haynes, A. Small (8), Groom (8), Taylor (8), T.J.Mathews (9) and Molina. W—D. Oliver, 13-12. L—Haynes, 3-6. HR—Oak., Grieve (3).

Anaheim 100 222 100—9 13 0
Seattle 010 000 020—3 5 2
K.Hill, Do.May (6) and Encarnacion; Lira, McCarthy (5), Carmona (7), Holzemer (8), Timlin (9) and R. Wilkins; Marzano (9). W—K. Hill, 9-12. L—Lira, 5-11. HRs—Anaheim, Turner (1), Howell (14). Seattle, Sheets (4).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

San Francisco 100 100 011—4 8 1
Colorado 102 000 000—3 5 0
Rapp, R. Rodriguez (5), Tavarez (7), R. Hernandez (8) and B.Johnson; R.Bailey, M. Munoz (8), DeJean (8), S. Reed (9) and Je.Reed. W—R. Hernandez, 5-2. L—S. Reed, 4-6. HRs—San Francisco, Snow (28), B. Johnson (11). Colorado, Burks (22).

Atlanta 000 000 001—1 4 1
Philadelphia 012 001 01x—5 10 0
Byrd, Embree (5), C. Fox (6), Lightenberg (7), Cather (8) and G.Myers; Stephenson and Estalella. W—Stephenson, 8-6. L—Byrd, 4-4.

Cincinnati 000 001 400—5 8 1
St. Louis 200 020 000—4 9 0
Burba, Sullivan (7), Shaw (9) and Taubensee; Fordyce (7); Aybar, Frascatore (7), Fossas (7), CKing (7), Eckersley (9) and Marrero. W—Burba, 11-10. L—Fossas, 2-7. Sv—Shaw (42). HRs—Cincinnati, BBoone (7). St. Louis, McGwire (21).

Pittsburgh 001 000 022—5 8 0
New York 000 016 00x—7 8 2
Cooke, Peters (6), Sodowsky (7), Rincon (8) and Kendall; Mlicki, Crawford (3), R.Jordan (7), Rojas (8) and A. Castilla. W—Crawford, 3-3. L—Cooke, 9-15. Sv—Rojas (15). HR—New York, Olerud (21).

San Diego 100 020 001—4 7 0
Los Angeles 010 000 000—1 5 0
J.Hamilton, Hoffman (9) and Flaherty; Candiotti, D. Reyes (6), Hall (8), Radinsky (9) and Piazza. Prince (9). W—J. Hamilton, 11-7. L—Candiotti, 10-7. Sv—Hoffman (37). HRs—San Diego, S. Finley (28), Caminiti (26).

Florida 700 001 101—10 8 1
Montreal 030 000 231—9 11 4
A.Leiter, Saunders (6), Alfonseca (7), F. Heredia (8), Stanifer (8), Vosberg (9) and Natal; C.Perez, Paniagua (1), Bullinger (5), DeHart (7), Bennett (9) and Widger. Chavez (9). W—A. Leiter, 11-9. L—C. Perez, 12-13. Sv—Vosberg (1). HRs—Florida, Morman (1). Chicago 010 010 001—3 11 2
Houston 000 000 100—1 8 0
M.Clark, Patterson (7), Plesiotia (8), T. Adams (9) and Houston; Holt, Magnante (8), R. Springer (8), T. Martin (9) and Ausmus. W—M. Clark, 14-8. L—Holt, 8-12. Sv—T. Adams (18). HRs—Chicago, Kieschnick (4), Houston (2).

Japanese Leagues

CENTRAL LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Yakult	76	48	2	.613	—
Yokohama	67	56	—	.545	8.5
Hiroshima	63	60	—	.512	12.5
Yomiuri	57	70	—	.449	20.5
Hanshin	56	69	1	.448	20.5
Chunichi	55	71	1	.437	22.0

PACIFIC LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Seibu	71	51	3	.582	—
Orix	62	56	3	.525	7.0
Kintetsu	63	60	4	.512	8.5
Daiei	58	65	1	.472	13.5
Nippon Ham	60	68	1	.469	14.0
Lotte	53	67	2	.442	17.0

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

CENTRAL LEAGUE

Yokohama 11, Chunichi 1
Yakult vs. Hiroshima, postponed, rain

PACIFIC LEAGUE

Daiei 11, Orix 5 (called after two outs in top of sixth, rain)
Lotte 7, Nippon Ham 2

BASKETBALL

EuroLeague

GROUP B

Ankara, Turk., 80, Estudiantes Madrid, Sp., 88

GROUP D

Ljubljana, Slov., 71, AEK Athens, Gr., 74
Zagreb, Cro., 87, Teamsystem Bologna, It., 92

GROUP C

Kinder Bologna, It., 72, Pau Orthez, Fr., 79,

CRICKET

ZIMBABWE VS. NEW ZEALAND

2D AND FINAL TEST, 1ST DAY

THURSDAY, IN BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe: 263-4

CYCLING

Tour of Spain

Leading placings in 183.3-km 19th stage from Valladolid Los Angeles de San Rafael:

1. J. M. Jimenez, Sp., Banesto 4 h. 31 m. 38 s.
2. Daniel Clavero, Spain, Estepona at 1 s.
3. Roberto Heras, Spain, Kelme s.t.
4. Pascal Richard, Switzerland, Casino 18
5. Laurent Jalabert, France, ONCE 31
6. Sergei Ivanov, Russia, TVM s.t.
7. Laurent Brochard, France, Lotus s.t.
8. Gianni Faresin, Italy, Mapei s.t.
9. Philippe Bordenave, France, Casino s.t.
10. Felix Garcia Casas, Spain, Lotus s.t.

OVERALL: 1. Alex Zuelle, Switzerland, ONCE 81 h. 37 m. 27 s.; 2. Fernando Escartin, Spain, Kelme at 2 m. 46 s.; 3. Laurent Dufaux, Switzerland, Lotus 3:39; 4. Enrico Zaina, Italy, Asics 5:07; 5. Roberto Heras, Spain, Kelme 5:24; 6. Daniel Clavero, Spain, Estepona 6:32; 7. Marcos Serrano, Spain, Kelme 6:59; 8. Laurent Jalabert, France, ONCE 9:29; 9. Gianni Faresin, Italy, Mapei 10:51; 10. Yvon Ledanois, France, GAN 11:22.

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 4, West Ham 0
Coventry 1, Crystal Palace 1
Leicester 1, Blackburn 1
Manchester United 2, Chelsea 2
Newcastle 1, Everton 0
Sheffield Wednesday 2, Derby 5
Southampton 0, Leeds 2

STANDINGS: Arsenal 18 points; Manchester United 18; Blackburn 15; Leicester 15; Chelsea 13; Liverpool 12; Newcastle 12; Leeds 10; Crystal Palace 10; West Ham 10; Coventry 10; Derby 9; Tottenham 9; Aston Villa 9; Wimbledon 8; Everton 7; Bolton 7; Barnsley 6; Sheffield Wednesday 5; Southampton 4.

DUTCH FIRST DIVISION

Roda JC Kerkrade 4, NEC Nijmegen 0
Volendam 0, Graafschap Doetinchem 5
NAC Breda 0, Groningen 0
Heerenveen 2, Twente Enschede 1
Feyenoord 5, Vitesse 1
Willem II Tilburg 3, RKC Waalwijk 2
Ajax Amsterdam 7, MVV Maastricht 0

STANDINGS: Ajax Amsterdam 21 points; Heerenveen 17; PSV Eindhoven 15; Feyenoord 14; Twente Enschede 14; Roda JC Kerkrade 12; Vitesse Arnhem 11; Groningen 9; RKC Waalwijk 8; NAC Breda 8; Graafschap Doetinchem 8; Willem II Tilburg 7; NEC Nijmegen 6; Sparta Rotterdam 5; Fortuna Sittard 5; Volendam 5; Utrecht 4; MVV Maastricht 0.

World Cup

EUROPEAN ZONE

GROUP 2

Moldova 0, Georgia 1
STANDINGS: England 18 points; Italy 17; Poland 7; Georgia 7; Moldova 0

GROUP 8

Malta 0, Czech Republic 1
Slovakia 3, Spain 2
STANDINGS: Spain 23 points; Yugoslavia 20; Slovakia 14; Czech Republic 13; Faroe Islands 6; Malta 0.

TENNIS

GRAND SLAM CUP

THURSDAY, IN MUNICH, GERMANY

QUARTERFINALS

Patrick Rafter (2), Australia, def. Marcelo Rios (7), Chile, 6-1, 7-6 (7-0).

Petr Korda, Czech Republic, def. Cedric Pioline (6), France, 7-5, 6-3.

TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TORONTO—Fired Cito Gaston, manager. Named Mel Queen manager for remainder of season.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ST. LOUIS—Signed Walt Jocketty, general manager, to 3-year contract extension. Announced that Tony La Russa, manager, has exercised his option through the 1999 season.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

DALLAS—Traded G Derek Harper and F Ed O'Bannon to Orlando for G Dennis Scott and $500,000 cash.

PORTLAND TRAIL—Signed C Kelvin Cato to 3-year contract. Signed G John Crotty.

SEATTLE—Signed F Jerome Kersey to 1-year contract.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ATLANTA—Re-signed LB Jamal Fountaine. Waived FS Chris Shelling.

KANSAS CITY—Signed DE Dexter Nottage to 2-two-year contract. Waived DE Kerry Hicks.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

CALGARY—Returned C Daniel Tkaczuk to Barrie, OHL, and G Jean-Sebastien Giguere, D Eric Charron, D Sami Helenius, D Rocky Thompson, F Jim Dowd, F Valeri Karpov, F Chris O'Sullivan, F Jesper Mattsson, F John Tripp and F Greg Pankewicz to New Brunswick, AHL.

CHICAGO—Acquired G Kirk Daubenspeck from Ottawa for 1998 6-round draft pick.

LOS ANGELES—Returned LW Josh Green to Springfield, AHL.

FLORIDA—Reassigned G Todd MacDonald to Cincinnati, IHL.

PHOENIX—Returned C Trevor Letowski, C Mike Pomichter, D Brad Tiley, D Dan Focht and D Ted Crowley to Springfield, AHL. Loaned RW Darrin Kimble to Kansas City, IHL.

PITTSBURGH—Traded D Jason Woolley to Buffalo Sabres for 1998 5th-round draft pick.

SAN JOSE—Assigned LW Nikles Andersson to Kentucky, AHL, and D Scott Hannon to Kelowna, WHA.

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

AHL—Announced an expansion team will begin play in Scranton-Wilkes-Barre in 1999-2000 season.

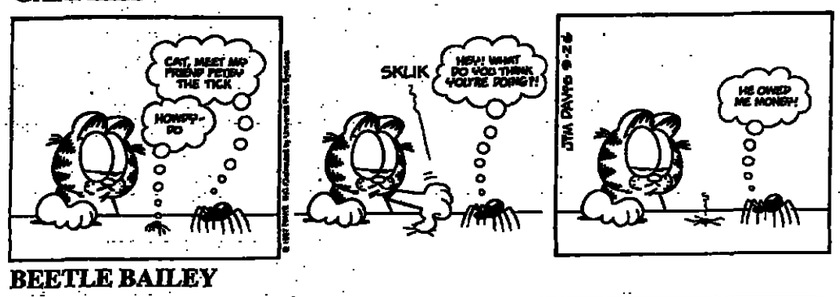
DENNIS THE MENACE

"WHEN I GROW UP I'D LIKE TO BE LIKE YOU, EXCEPT I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD SLEEP THAT MUCH."

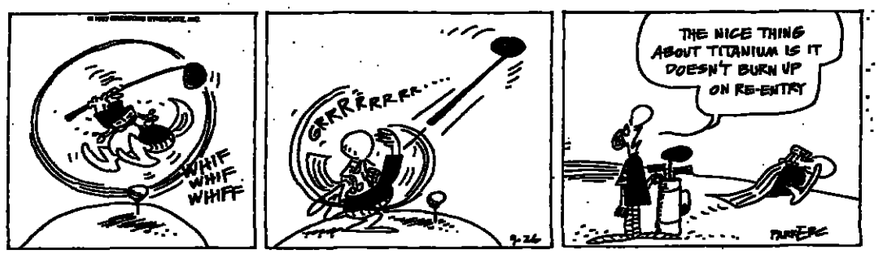
PEANUTS

CALVIN AND HOBBES

GARFIELD



WIZARD of ID



JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TEAGA

GELBI

HUMILS

NARCLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

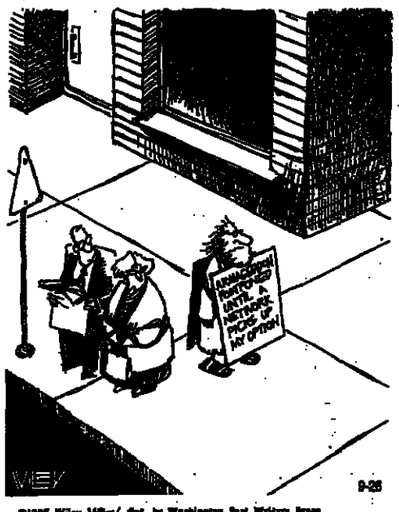
Answer: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABOVE LATHE BEHEAD CHALET
Answer: Why the cop was in the jazz club — HE HAD THE BEAT

BEETLE BAILEY

NON SEQUITUR



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POSTCARD

Bonn ♥ Beethoven

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

BONN — Prophets are supposed to be shunned in their own lands, the proverb says, so consider the tale of Ludwig van Beethoven and his birthplace in Bonn.

For five years, the city authorities here, where the composer was born in 1770, have singularly failed to honor him with the kind of annual extravaganza that, say, Bayreuth reserves for Richard Wagner (who was born in Leipzig) or Salzburg lays out for its native son, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Since finances ran dry for the city's annual Beethoven Festival in 1992, there has been little but his renovated birthplace in a downtown alley and an eponymous concert hall to remind the visitor that this snoozing town on the Rhine has any claim to fame beyond the politicians who practice their art here.

And even though the Beethoven Festival is finally to be revived this month, the program has far less resonance than, say, the moment when Lord Menuhin celebrated his 80th birthday here last year by conducting a rousing rendition of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony at the Beethovenhalle concert hall.

This year, two orchestras will share a program of concerts that started Sunday: the Beethovenhalle Orchestra and the Norwegian Youth Symphony Orchestra. The musical schedule, following symposiums about the musician's work, began with "Lenore, 1806" the original version of what was to become "Fidelio."

Additionally, there is to be a program of symphonies, piano concertos, chamber music, string quartets and sonatas and a competition for the Ludwig van Beethoven Conductor's Prize. The winner, most likely drawn from aspiring young conductors rather than the ranks of well-known artists, will conduct a gala concert to end the festival on Sunday.

In a way, the low profile reflects Beethoven's own attitude to Bonn. By the time he was 17 years old, he had made his first journey to Vienna to study under Mozart, and he became far more closely associated with that city than with his birthplace. After he moved to Vienna in 1792, he never returned. He died there in 1827.

For all that, 170 years after his death, Beethoven's hometown fortunes may be about to be affected by contemporary factors that would have seemed strange to him: the free market, cyberspace and the politics of the post-Cold-War era.

□

In 1999, a new company called International Beethoven Festivals Bonn Ltd. is planned. Its purpose will be to attempt to bring private money into a Beethoven project. It is hoped that such an effort will help Bonn recover from the departure of government ministries to Berlin, which begins in 1999.

"With Beethoven we would like to have a new focal point," said Werner D'Hain, a spokesman for the city authorities.

One idea under discussion is to create, somewhere near Beethoven's birthplace, what D'Hain called "a virtual Beethovenhouse" where, using interactive computer technology, visitors will be able to summon symphonies from cyberspace or download original scores.

Faulkner Turns 100 With a Global Party

By Mel Gussow
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — From Oxford, Mississippi, to Pirate's Alley in New Orleans to Rennes, France, to Tbilisi, Georgia, scholars and other Faulknerians are commemorating the centenary of William Faulkner's birth. Faulkner himself would have been amazed to think he had such a worldwide following.

In Oxford, where he lived most of his life, he was always considered something of a maverick. In his early 20s, as an aspiring author with little education, no known profession and seemingly an air of superiority, he was nicknamed Count No 'Count. Late in his life, and especially after his death (in 1962), Oxford accepted him as its most famous native son, a fact that is being observed there with a weeklong series of lectures, exhibitions and parties, culminating in the unveiling of a statue of him on the lawn in front of City Hall. In William Beckwith's lifelike sculpture, Faulkner sits on a park bench, hat on his head and pipe in his hand, looking as if he is about to launch into a favorite story.

His relatives, devoted to his image, plan to boycott the Oxford ceremony. As his nephew Jimmy Faulkner said recently, it is not the statue he objects to, but its location. "I don't like the way they went about doing it," he said. "They ignored the family. They wanted it as a tourist attraction, to make dollars out of him."

In Oxford, Faulkner has become a cottage industry. Jimmy Faulkner said the family would have preferred that the statue be placed at Rowan Oak, the author's home, which is 10 minutes from the town square.

As one of Faulkner's closest relatives and a frequent hunting companion, his nephew (who is 74 and resembles his uncle) has a slide show about the author that he has been presenting for more than 20 years. He is taking his show to New Albany, Mississippi, his uncle's birthplace, which has its own celebration. Faulkner is also being remembered in Pirate's Alley in New Orleans, where he wrote his first novel, "Soldiers' Pay." In New York, there was a Faulkner conference last week at the City University Graduate Center, and on Monday a group of actors read from his work in a literary evening at the Algonquin Hotel.

The celebrants in Oxford include Shelby Foote, Willie Morris and a contingent from the University of Mississippi, where there is an annual Faulkner conference. This year's conference was the largest ever, said Donald Kartiganer, who holds a chair in Faulkner studies at the university. "A statue to Faulkner seems appropriate," Kartiganer said this week. "I can live with it there." He added, "At least he's seated rather than on a pedestal." He will give three speeches in Oxford, characterizing the author as someone who always recognized "the power of the past, of background, of origins."

In his lifetime, Faulkner was eventually acknowledged as one of the most important novelists of the 20th century, but his journey to that rank was filled with impediments, many of them provided by his critics. For years, his work, including his masterpieces, "The Sound and the Fury," "As I Lay Dying," "Light in August" and "Absalom, Absalom!," were rejected by many for the very reason that they were untraditional and experimental.

Gradually the author's admirers overcame the negative reception. In common with the character of Dilsey in "The Sound and the Fury," Faulkner endured — until he reached a position of eminence, which coincided with his being awarded the 1949 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Beginning with his early work, Faulkner discovered that his "own little postage stamp of native soil was worth writing about," and that he would never live long enough to exhaust it. But he mined it deeply.

United Press International
William Faulkner and his wife, Estelle, at their home in 1955.

He filled his imaginary but extraordinarily vivid Yoknapatawpha County with stories of family loyalty and betrayal and a panoply of some of the most original characters on the American landscape.

Joseph Blotner, the author of "Faulkner: A Biography," sees Faulkner as a universalist rather than a regionalist, focusing on, in the novelist's words, "the human heart in conflict with itself." For him, Faulkner's county was "a microcosm that led to a macrocosm."

Before he went to the Faulkner conference in Rennes, Blotner said: "Faulkner is more than of his time. He is not just our greatest 20th-century novelist. Although I take my hat off to Hawthorne, Melville and James, for me Faulkner is No. 1 — and if you have an hour I'll tell you why."

William Ferris, the director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, said this week, "Faulkner is the great American writer of this century, and no writer of fiction in the future will be untouched by his legacy."

Ferris, President Bill Clinton's choice to lead the National Endowment for the Humanities, was to speak and read from Faulkner in New Albany. His favorite is "Absalom, Absalom!," which, in his mind, is "the quintessential novel of the American south." For Faulknerians, Hemingway and Fitzerald, his arch rivals in life, are nowhere in the same ballpark.

In his novels, Faulkner became a myth maker who could differentiate between facts and truth. Facts, he said, can be looked at from different angles, but the truth is unassailable. Jimmy Faulkner takes a personal view of the subject of truth in his uncle's life. Asked about the stories Faulkner invented about his experiences in action during World War II, he laughed and said, "He never lied, but at times he stretched the hell out of the truth."

That started him on a reminiscence about the root of his uncle's work: "Way back in the early 1900s to the 1940s, around here two or three or four generations of the same family might live in the same house. In the winter time they would sit around the fire at night and older people would tell stories and legends about family." Many times he would read Faulkner's stories and recognize their origins. "He wrote about things he knew and things he knew about, but in his style, in his expanded fiction."

Faulkner's life was filled with sorrow and depression, although as Blotner points out, the author never had any doubt about the value of his work. He was confronted by the sudden death of a younger brother and his own long unhappy marriage, both of which may have contributed to his alcoholism. For Frederick Karl, the author of "William Faulkner: American Writer," many of Faulkner's problems were self-inflicted: In common with Hemingway, Karl writes, "he courted disaster in order to refill whatever the books had taken from him."

SEYMOUR HERSH BOOK

The JFK Scoop That Wasn't: Monroe Papers Called Fakes

By Lloyd Grove
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Seymour Hersh, the Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter, has been toiling for the past four years on "The Dark Side of Camelot," yet another expose of John F. Kennedy, his brother Robert and their allegedly seamy secret lives among mobsters, spies and movie stars.

But Hersh planned to render those other hundreds of books passé — and make legions of historians gasp — by drawing on a cache of secret papers provided to him by the son of a long-dead New York lawyer. The documents were said to provide the strongest-ever evidence for such rumored Kennedy dirt as the annulment of JFK's supposed first marriage, the president's entanglement with mobster Sam Giancana, and — most sensational — his agreement to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in hush money to his lover Marilyn Monroe.

Based largely on the promise of these startling revelations, Hersh's publisher, Little, Brown, has been gearing up for a blockbuster, ordering a first printing of 350,000 copies for the book's release in mid-November. ABC News, working with Hersh, has been planning a sizzling documentary for the November ratings sweeps.

But a funny thing has happened on the way to best-sellerdom: Hersh — who was in the habit of bringing copies of the secret papers to his interviews with Kennedy intimates and flashing them like a magician — has concluded at the 11th hour that many of the documents are fakes. "That's journalism," an otherwise uncommunicative Hersh said, attempting to minimize the controversy over the secret papers — whose apparent discrediting has required extensive revisions by Hersh to delete them from the 450-page book. "I'm sorry if people want to magnify and dramatize." He adds, "Big deal."

But ABC News, for one, thinks it is a big deal. An installment of "20/20" is featuring a report on "the bizarre story of the 'Kennedy documents,' " says an ABC press release. The program will assert that some of the documents, particularly those involving the president and the film siren, are forgeries.

That charge is hotly disputed by Lex Cusack, son of the late Lawrence Cusack, a New York tax attorney and, according to his son, an informal JFK adviser. After his father died at age 66 in 1985,

AP
Kennedy and Monroe: Was there a blackmail plot?

Cusack said he discovered about 300 pages of Kennedy papers in his father's files — papers which he claims were authenticated by experts.

He agreed to let Hersh use the papers in 1995, and was later put on a $25,000 retainer by ABC News. "I thought we were all on the same team," Cusack said, noting that he has received only half of his fee. He added that Hersh hasn't returned his phone calls since late August, when ABC anchor Peter Jennings surprised Cusack with a series of accusatory questions about his father's papers during an on-camera interview.

"I totally relied on Seymour Hersh," Cusack said, "and he continually reassured me of the correctness of what was going on, and of the veracity and authenticity of documents, and suddenly he totally abandoned it. What would your reaction be?"

"I'm glad he feels burned," Hersh responded. "If the experts we've hired — not one, not two, but three — are saying that he is committing 'et cetera' . . . that seems appropriate."

Meanwhile, David Westin, president of ABC News, said there is no guarantee he will follow through on plans to air the documentary.

"We haven't booked anything. We haven't made a final decision," Westin said of the November program. "It depends on exactly what we have." Westin continued. "I don't think it's a question of enthusiasm. We're just making sure that what we have is compelling reporting rather than reviewing things that have been said before. And we have to be absolutely confident in the accuracy."

This hedging by ABC is "news to me," said a clearly concerned Sarah Crichton, of Little, Brown.

Hersh, of course, could have expected a huge media windfall from the Marilyn Monroe revelation, and until June, was hopeful of its accuracy. Among those to whom he showed the Monroe documents — in which the president seemed to be promising to give Monroe, through the screen of her mother, a million-dollar trust fund in return for her silence — was the author and Kennedy intimate Gore Vidal.

"The marginal notes made by Jack seemed very much in his handwriting," Vidal told The Post. "You didn't forget it once you saw it — it was sort of a vigorous 9-year-old valiantly combating dyslexia."

These notes included, Vidal said, what were thought to be the president's stipulations to the deal: "No mention — ," a cryptic reference to himself; "No mention R" — presumably Bobby Kennedy; and "No mention SG" — presumably the mobster Sam Giancana.

On an additional handwritten sheet, was a list of all of Kennedy's siblings, with the amount toward the million dollars they would each pony up to pay off Monroe's blackmail.

"He was tithing them — $50,000 from one, and so on. He then tries to add it all up, and it's nowhere near a million. I thought it was extremely touching, the fact that he couldn't add."

Vidal said elements such as these gave the document the appearance of authenticity, but stressed that he didn't know. "Let us say if Sy Hersh has misunderstood all of this and been taken for a ride, he's been taken for a ride by a master. It's brilliant stuff."

"The last time I talked to Sy, I said, 'How are you doing sleuthing the Monroe thing?' " Vidal recalled. "And he said, 'It may prove all to be untrue.' But if he's having second thoughts about any documents, it's a sign of his integrity as a journalist. He's trying to look into the vast cesspool of American politics."

Staff writer David Streitfeld contributed to this report.

PEOPLE

THE Spice Girls, Britain's five-girl pop sensation, have become tax exiles in the south of France, it seems. The group, whose debut album sold 14.5 million copies and whose singles have sold 16.5 million, are estimated to have earned themselves £50 million ($80 million) since their first hit just over a year ago. The Daily Star newspaper said the five had moved to a chateau outside Nice to avoid a tax bill of £32 million. Their near neighbors will include **Elton John, Tina Turner, Bill Wyman** and **Michael Douglas.** Each Spice Girl — **Geri Halliwell, Emma Bunton, Victoria Adams, Mel B** and **Mel C** — is expected to double her income to £16 million in 1998.

□

Hillary Rodham Clinton said she would sacrifice anything for Mideast peace — even her hard-line ban on smoking in the White House. Clinton said at a newspaper columnists' luncheon that she was surprised when the chain-smoking Prime Minister **Yitzhak Rabin** of Israel and **King Hussein** of Jordan insisted on observing her anti-smoking rule during the 1994 negotiations. "Of course I'd do anything for Mideast peace, even let them smoke in the White House," she said, "and I found myself begging them to smoke."

□

The FBI has grudgingly made public all but 10 secret files on Beatle **John Lennon.** The FBI had fought to keep Lennon's file secret on the grounds of national security after a professor at the University of California at Irvine, **Jonathan Wiener,** requested the documents more than 15 years ago. Wiener, author of a 1984 book on the late rock star, finally got the documents this week. Among the documents surrendered is an April 26, 1972, FBI memo from an unidentified agency source describing a trip by a Madison, Wisconsin, leftist to New York where she met with "Yippie and Zippie representatives" planning demonstrations at the August 1972 Republican National Convention. Lennon told the activist that he would "come to the conventions if they are peaceful," and on the condition that his appearance not be advertised in advance. One memo describes the scruffy apartment of a New York leftist who had trained her parrot to chirp "Right on!" whenever a political conversation got lively. Other FBI documents show that the New York City Police Department and the FBI each unsuccessfully sought to arrest Lennon on drug charges, and that the FBI, under **J. Edgar Hoover,** had contacted Justice Department officials and President Nixon's chief of staff, **H.R. (Bob) Haldeman,** about how to deal with Lennon.

Michael Green/The Associated Press
LeAnn Rimes accepting the Horizon Award.

□

Garth Brooks has been named best entertainer by the Country Music Association. "Strawberry Wine," a song about a teenager's first love affair, was named both the best country music single and song. The song award went to writers **Gary Harrison** and **Matraca Berg,** while singer **Deana Carter** got the trophy for best single. **George Strait** was named best male vocalist, and his "Carrying Your Love With Me" was named best album. Industry voters finally got around to acknowledging two of country music's best-selling female singers, **Trisha Yearwood** and **LeAnn Rimes.** Rimes won her first nod from the association, the Horizon Award for career progress. Yearwood was named best female vocalist.

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